

5
BUDGET FINS
RATED AND
REVIEWED

AIMING FOR THE
SKYE - SCOTTISH
DIVING AT ITS BEST

GO WITH THE FLOW:
THE WORLD'S DRIFT-
DIVING HOTSPOTS

KID'S SEA CAMP
IN BONAIRE - FUN
FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Sport Diver

ING SOCIETY

MIRANDA
DOES NEW ZEALAND
BBC PRESENTER IN THE
LAND OF THE KIWIS

RED SEA
DIVE-FEST
7 RESORTS IN ONE TRIP!

SUFFERING THE
CORNISH BLUES
WE GO CAGE-DIVING OFF
THE SOUTH COAST

HAMMER
TIME!
GETTING ACQUAINTED
WITH BIMINI'S GREAT
HAMMERHEADS



PAUL ROSE • PORTUGAL • CRITTER-HUNTING • BLUE PLANET

www.sportdiver.co.uk

NOV 2015

£4.20

770958 900134



An experience without equal

At Wakatobi, we take great pride in providing the ultimate in exclusive and personalised service. Our dive staff and private guides ensure your in-water experiences are perfectly matched to your abilities and interests. While at the resort, or on board our luxury dive yacht Pelagian, you need only ask and we will gladly provide any service or facility within our power. For all these reasons and more, Wakatobi takes top honors among discerning divers and snorkellers.

"Simply put, it doesn't get any better than this! Everything is about service and maximizing your diving experience. The dives were amazing, and the dive and hotel staff are first class. They will accommodate any request, but you hardly need to make any since they have thought of essentially everything."

Dr. Jim & Laurie Benjamin, May 2015



www.wakatobi.com

Evolution House,
2-6 Easthampstead Road,
Wokingham, RG40 2EG

EDITORIAL

EDITOR

Mark Evans | 01440 760918
mark.evans@sportdiver.co.uk

DEPUTY EDITOR

Will Harrison | 0118 989 7266
william.harrison@sportdiver.co.uk

ART EDITOR

Matt Griffiths | 01242 216067
matthew.griffiths@sportdiver.co.uk

ADVERTISING

COMMERCIAL BRAND MANAGER

Ross Arnold | 0118 974 2510
ross.arnold@sportdiver.co.uk

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE

Sam Wren | 0118 974 2502
sam.wren@sportdiver.co.uk

PRODUCTION

PUBLISHING PRODUCTION MANAGER

Kevin Shelcott | 01603 772165
kevin.shelcott@archant.co.uk

PRODUCTION TEAM LEADER

Mikey Godden | 01603 772876
michael.godden@archant.co.uk

CREATIVE DESIGNERS

Andy Crafter, Adam Kimberley

PUBLISHING

MD ARCHANT SPECIALIST AND WEDDINGS

Peter Timperley
peter.timperley@archant.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Address: Sport Diver, Tower House, Lathkill
Street, Sovereign Park, Market Harborough,
LE16 9EF

sportdiver@subscription.co.uk
www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/sd

PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION

Published by Archant Community Media
Limited trading as Archant Specialist under
licence from Bonnier Dive Publishing Limited

TO BUY A BACK ISSUE OF SPORT DIVER
CALL 0844 848 5232

Views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily the views of the publishers or PADI.
Copyright for material published remains with
Bonnier Dive Publishing Ltd. Use of material from
Sport Diver is strictly prohibited unless permission
is given. All advertisements of which the creative
content is in whole or in part the work of Bonnier
Dive Publishing Ltd remain the copyright of Bon-
nier Dive Publishing Ltd.

NEVER MISS ANOTHER ISSUE

You can buy individual issues of Sport Diver and
have them delivered direct to your door via:
www.buyamag.co.uk/sportdiver Use code:
SPD34 and get £1 off the October 2015 issue!

Editor's LETTER



Back to the Middle East

As you read this column, I will have just returned from an assignment to the Sultanate of Oman. Even though I travel for work regularly in this country and abroad, and enjoy all of my trips regardless of where they are to, I was particularly looking forward to this one, as it would represent the first time I had been out to Oman since way back in 2000. I was enamoured with the desert country on my initial visit, succumbing to the allure of the barren mountains, dramatic wadis and inviting coastline, but at that time it was still relatively unknown on the diving scene and we felt just a hint of that pioneering spirit that the first divers into the Red Sea must have felt.

How things change. Now Oman has a thriving tourist trade, but it is still not that widely spoken of in the diving world. I reckon this is because everyone who goes falls in love with the place and doesn't want to share it with anyone else, which means I will probably get lynched when my first article extolling the virtues of Oman appears in next month's issue!

So use my adventures to serve as an incentive for you to tag on a repeat visit to somewhere you have ventured to in the past among your upcoming dive trips. It doesn't have to be abroad - there are plenty of great diving locations in the UK that you must have frequented once or twice but haven't been back to in an age. I love exploring new destinations, but there is something special about returning to an old favourite and getting reacquainted...

On the new experience front, I finally got up to the Farne Islands to dive with the seals, and I dragged my wife Penney along with me. A committed warm water diver, she was tempted by the promise of getting up close and personal with friendly seals, plus she'd just got her Long Term Test, made-to-measure drysuit from RoHo, so she had no hope of avoiding going for a couple of dives in the UK!

Mark Evans, EDITOR

Contents NOVEMBER 2015



COVER PICTURE HAMMERHEAD SHARK IN BIMINI
PHOTOGRAPHER NICK ROBERTSON-BROWN/FROGFISH PHOTOGRAPHY

Regulars

6 NEWS

A new campaign is launched urging Londoners to look after the Thames and the wildlife that calls it home, and British freediver Michael Board sets a new record.

28 PADI DIVING SOCIETY NEWS

Simon Chance talks about a diver who faced her fears to become a PADI Professional and reveals the latest readers to achieve MSD status.

52 LETTERS

The pick of the Sport Diver postbag, including a reader who has been won over by the charms of Dahab and another who wants UK divers to worry about the rain a little less.

70 OUR WORLD UNDERWATER SCHOLAR

2015 Scholar, Danny Copeland, tests his videography skills filming mantas in the Maldives.

118 PHOTO WORKSHOP

Martin Edge continues his theme of Advanced Composition, this month looking at the idea of 'no compromise', when UW photographers stick to a particular plan.

130 PAUL ROSE

National Geographic Explorer and BBC presenter Paul Rose comes face-to-face with a polar bear while on an expedition to Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic.





Features

18 WORLD'S TOP DRIFT DIVES

We list some of the world's best wild underwater rides.

36 CORNWALL'S BLUE SHARKS

Jeremy Cuff goes cage diving with blue sharks off the Cornish coast.

44 EGYPT

Rose and Udo Kefrig visit seven dive centres in a single jam-packed trip.

54 BONAIRE

Luke Evans starts his SEAL Aquamissions at the ever-popular Kid's Sea Camp.

64 SCOTLAND

Mike Clark returns to dive the Isle of Skye 25 years after his previous visit.

72 BAHAMAS

Nick and Caroline Robertson-Brown get face-to-face with great hammerheads.

80 NEW ZEALAND

BBC presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff discovers New Zealand to be the perfect family holiday dive destination.

112 ANEMONE CRITTERS

Dr Richard Smith discusses anemone critters and how to photograph them.

Kit & Reviews

88 WHAT'S NEW

A selection of new products, including SUBGEAR's Definition wetsuit range and Apeks's RK3 fins.

90 GEAR GUIDE: BUDGET FINS

The Sport Diver Test Team rates and reviews a selection of fins priced at less than £50.

104 LONG TERM TEST

A range of gear is tested over a six-month period, including the Hollis Explorer eSCR, Scubapro's Mantis M1 dive computer and Ursuit's Heavy Light Kevlar BDS drysuit.

90



12 ISSUES FOR £21.99, SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
TURN TO PAGES 34 & 35

NEWS

Each month, we collate the latest industry news from right here in the UK, as well as all over our water planet. To find out the most up-to-date news and views, check out the website:

www.sportdiver.co.uk

Paul Rose challenges London to stop littering the Thames

'DO THE RIGHT THING AND STOP LITTER ENDING UP IN THE STOMACHS OF SEALS AND FISH'



Paul Rose is no stranger to litter awareness initiatives...

International explorer Paul Rose joined a Thames foreshore clean up on 30 September and called on Londoners to 'do the right thing' and make sure their rubbish goes in the bin, not in the river.

Paul kicked off the Port of London Authority (PLA)-led campaign at a clear-up on the Isle of Dogs' foreshore, overlooking historic Greenwich Royal Naval College. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the harm that rubbish in the Thames is doing to wildlife and why it's important to stop it getting there in the first place.

"I love the Thames," said Paul. "I grew up near by it in Rainham, so it was part of my everyday life for many years. Now I've come back to help raise awareness of the harm rubbish does in the river and the simple things you need to do to stop it getting there in the first place.

"The message to people is simple: do the right thing. Bag up your rubbish and make sure it's disposed of properly. If you don't, the wind will snatch it and blow it along until it finds the water, stops dead and stays there. It only comes back out again when people like the PLA, Thames21 and their volunteers come along to take it, bag it and recycle it. If it's not recovered it ends up in the stomachs of seals, fish and other marine life in the river."

Thames Festival director, Adrian Evans, who oversees Totally Thames, joined the call for action. He said: "We've spent the whole of September celebrating the Thames, with events bringing over two million people to the river and its banks. So the message is simple. We've got eleven months until the next festival - in that time, let's do all we can stop the flood of rubbish going into the Thames."

Every year the PLA recovers more than 400 tonnes of rubbish from the river Thames. Some of it heavy wood which is hazardous to ships; the vast majority is plastic of all kinds, mostly bottles, but also spoons, cartons and Q Tips.

"The river is like a great big rubbish magnet," said PLA chief executive,

Robin Mortimer. "If you're close to the river and don't bin your coffee cup, water bottle or sandwich wrapper properly, there's only one place it's going to end up. And if we are not able to recover those plastics, they'll ultimately end up in the scores of birds, fish and seals that the river is home to."

Rubbish in the world's rivers is feeding a global problem with large volumes of plastic floating in some parts of the ocean. Scientists say there are five large swirls known as 'garbage patches', where each square kilometre of surface water holds almost 600,000 pieces of plastic debris. Seabirds found with plastics in their gut include albatrosses, gulls, petrels, and penguins.

Debbie Leach, CEO of Thames21 says the campaign is essential to halt a seemingly unstoppable tide of rubbish: "We go to the Thames foreshore, do a great clear-up, leaving the it clear of rubbish, go back a week later, the rubbish is back with countless bottles and bags to be recovered all over again. The only way to make progress is to stop the rubbish at source: when it leaves people's hands it needs to go in the right place, the bin." The campaign is backed by groups including Thames21, Totally Thames, the Environment Agency, Thames Tideway Tunnel, Thames Estuary Partnership, London Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. It features four posters and a film in which Paul Rose explains the scale of the problem and how people can 'Do the Right Thing'.

The campaign launch comes as Thames Water gears up to start work on the Thames Tideway Tunnel which will stop the discharge of over 40 million cubic metres of raw sewage into the river every year.

"Forty years ago the Thames was biologically dead," said Tideway chief executive Andy Mitchell. "Today we've got 125 species of fish in the river, so progress has been fantastic. We're doing our bit to clean the river by building the Tunnel, now we're calling on Londoners to do their bit too. So we all have a river to be truly proud of." ■



...having orchestrated a campaign to rid Windermere of rubbish



Paul showing his frustration after a debris dive – the Thames and Windermere both suffer at the hands of litterers

ABOUT THE THAMES ENVIRONMENT

- The tidal Thames is home to more than 125 different species of fish.
- The latest (2014) Thames seal count by the Zoological Society of London found more than 900 seals living in the river. Over ten years of public reporting of seals in the river, Canary Wharf has established itself as the Thames' seal spotting hotspot.
- More than 300,000 over wintering birds make their home on the Thames every year.
- The river is home to environmentally important and protected sites including: nine Sites of Special Scientific Interest, four Special Areas of Conservation and two Special Protection Areas.

ABOUT THE PLA

- The PLA is a self-financing organisation, set-up by an Act of Parliament in 1909 to run the tidal River Thames in trust for future generations. Its 350-strong workforce oversees safe navigation, protects the marine environment and promotes the use of the river. The PLA has no shareholders and any financial surpluses are reinvested in stewardship of the river and improving the efficiency of PLA operations.
- The PLA oversees navigational safety and river operations on 95 miles of the tidal Thames from Teddington Lock, through the capital, and out to the sea.

ABOUT THAMES 21

- Thames21 is the voice for London's waterways, working with communities to improve rivers and canals for people and wildlife.
- Thames21 mobilises thousands of volunteers every year to clean and green the capital's 400-mile network of waterways.

DIVING WITH FRIENDS




GET YOUR BEST DIVING OFFERS NOW: SPECIAL GROUP OFFERS AVAILABLE!

BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION
www.euro-divers.com

or e-mail:
office@euro-divers.com

MALDIVES

INDONESIA

EGYPT

THAILAND

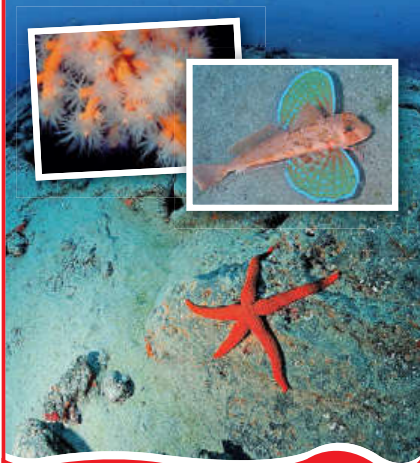
SPAIN

OMAN

MAURITIUS

JAPAN

CROATIA

SAFARI DIVING
LANZAROTE

**“ YOU DON'T KNOW HOW
GOOD THE DIVING IS HERE
UNTIL YOU TRY ”**



* Proud winner's of Lanzarote's Quality award and Trip Advisor's certificate of Excellence - So you know you are in safe hands.

* A safe family holiday resort with great diving all year round.

* Ideal for all divers whether on your own or in groups.

* We can assist with accommodation near to the dive centre.

**SAFARI
DIVING**

BSAC
Over 40 years experience

PADI

SSI

Contact Wendy

Phone: (0034) 928 51 19 92

Mobile: (0034) 625 059 713

Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com

Web: www.safaridiving.com

Burnt at 50m!

Sport Diver contributor Gavin Anderson gives a firsthand account of how mixing oxygen-rich gas and a heat pad on a deep tech dive ended in disaster

Conditions were almost perfect - the sea was flat, the sun was out and all our pre-dive checks were done. We were some miles past the Island of May about to dive on a K-class submarine and I, like everyone else, was excited about the dive. Stewart had already descended down the line and cork had been sent up indicating the shot was on the wreck. The rebreather divers Pete and Julie, Bob, Dave, Stevie, David and Callum went in first, followed by Rob and myself on our twinsets. We were diving K17, one of two K-class subs which sunk in a World War One naval exercise on the night of 31 January 1918 and by the time we'd reached 40m, I could see a large part of the wreck, but something didn't feel right. I was wearing a heat pad on my T-shirt inside my drysuit as I often do, but it was starting to feel uncomfortably hot. The heat and pain were quickly getting worse. It felt like the pad was stuck to my skin and no longer on my T-shirt! My head was very clear as I was diving on trimix, but despite this I felt confused. How did my heat pad get stuck on my skin, and why was it getting so unbearably hot? For a minute I continued along the wreck telling myself it will be fine, I'll wriggle it loose, which I tried to no avail. I really didn't want to abandon such a fantastic dive. I never let on to Rob or any of the other guys I was in trouble - I didn't want to wreck their dive either. Eventually I realised I had to abandon mine, so I signalled to Rob to join the others and that I was heading back to the shotline and boat. But I never made the line. The pain was so severe I decided to start my ascent immediately and sent up my SMB. I smiled to myself still gritting my teeth 'at least I'd miss all the lion's mane jellyfish again!'. At 9m I swapped to my nitrox deco bottle, remaining calm despite the pain. My dive time was around 15 minutes and I only had another three minutes left before I was clear and safe to ascend. Once on the surface I was helped out of my kit by Stewart, who was now back on the boat, and then took off my waterproof thermal and T-shirt with the heat pad still stuck to it, but now a rather dark colour. I told Stewart to have a look and see what damage, if any, had been done. I imagined a bit of a sunburn at worst. "Ouch Gavin, you've got a nasty burn, you're going to need to go to hospital!" he exclaimed. The pain was bearable, but seeing a picture of the

burn on my phone made me realise I really did need attention quickly. Steve Haddow, our skipper, was brilliant after applying a dressing to the wound and contacting and co-ordinating the emergency services. Once all the divers were onboard, we quickly headed back towards Anstruther. Not far from the Island of May, we met the Anstruther lifeboat, which I was transferred on to. Morag the paramedic and the rest of the crew were great, and I continued to feel remarkably calm, helped by cool salt water being sprayed on to my back and light banter about rugby and football! Transferred by ambulance to Ninewells, I was given more saline to cool the wound onboard and then for another couple of hours in hospital. I was then bandaged up and released with pain killers and an appointment card for a skin graft three days later. The skin graft seemed to go well but, a week later, getting all the staples removed was agony. Worse still, when on returning to hospital as an emergency two days later, we found the wound was badly infected - not helped by several missed, clotted staples which had failed to be removed two days previously! Another week on from then, my graft site has recovered well, but the skin graft itself has only 50 percent survived, so it will be a wee while longer before I'm diving again! So what went wrong? Well, I normally use a small 2.5-litre tank of air to inflate my suit, as helium has poor thermal properties, but my small tank was out of date and my replacement wasn't ready, so I thought I'd be fine using my deco mix for suit inflation. I hadn't thought that the extra O₂ and a deep dive would have such a massive effect on my heat pad. I had air activated the pad as normal some three hours before the dive, but the enriched O₂ in my deco cylinder, coupled with the increased partial pressure, had accelerated the pad's normal slow burn reaction into a very fast, high temperature burn out - in fact, the 12-hour heat pad was exhausted by the time I'd reached the surface! I've heard of a diver in Brighton and one in Oban who have had the same thing happen, but because they wore their patches on the outside, or in a pocket of their thick Weezele undersuits, they escaped with only minor burns! I certainly will be very careful in future and hope that my hard lesson helps prevent others from making the same mistake!

We're Magical.
We're Serene.
We're Egypt.

Egypt
Live the Magic



Egypt - The Diving Destination of the Year 2012, 2013 & 2014

Join us by the Red Sea
SHARM EL SHEIKH - HURGADA - MARSALA
www.egypt.travel

Egypt
Live the Magic




Amazing PADI courses & guided dive packages

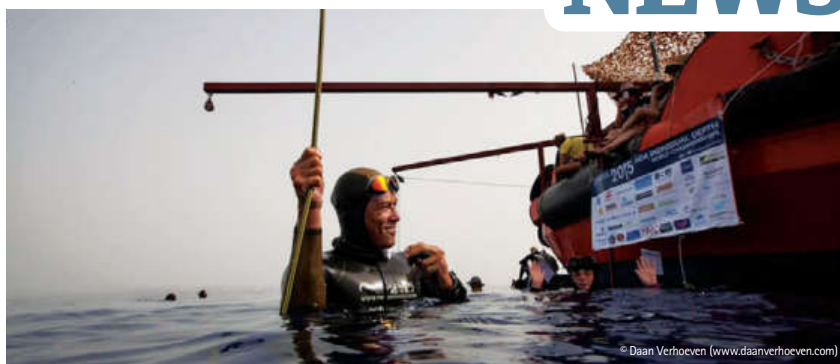


Number 1 dive centre in Lanzarote! As voted for on Tripadvisor!



Get your best diving offers now! Visit our website!

Contact Us:
(0034) 928516815
www.manta-diving-lanzarote.com
info@manta-diving-lanzarote.com



FREEDIVER BREAKS NATIONAL RECORD

On 10 September, Michael Board broke his own Free Immersion national record by pulling himself down a rope to a depth of 97m and back again.

Michael was taking part in the Pre-Competition to the Individual AIDA Depth World Championships in Limassol, Cyprus, and it was the third and final day of the competition. Board had previously nailed a solid 100m Constant Weight dive, using a mono fin to swim down and up, on day one and so was looking in good shape to dive deep in this competition, and as it turns out started and ended on a high note.

Mike's previous record was 96m, set at the

prestigious Vertical Blue competition on Long Island in the Bahamas on 15 November 2013. Of this latest Free Immersion national record, Mike said: "Waiting for the dive today I had a little apprehension as I always do before a competition dive and a national record attempt, and because it was at this stage two years ago that I crashed out of the World Championships in Greece by rupturing my ear drum at a depth of 95m while trying for a national record of 100m in Constant Weight discipline. It's hard not to push too far sometimes, but hopefully I learnt from that experience and this is reflected in today's dive!"

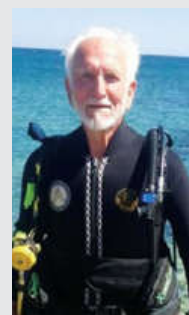
92-year-old diver sets sights on busy dive year

A 92-year-old British diver is planning to complete 29 dives to celebrate reaching his latest birthday.

Ray Woolley, one of the oldest active divers in the world, plans to complete all his dives in Cyprus, where he now lives, according to the Cyprus Mail. Having turned 92 in late August, he hopes to achieve his goal by mid-October.

Ray has been diving since the 1960s, when he regularly visited the waters off of Portland and Weymouth, but has held a love of the water for far longer.

He told the Sunday Mail: "I love swimming. Diving came along with the swimming. I still swim three or four times a day."



All change in Grand Cayman

The end of 2015 sees a major change in two of the most-established dive centres in the Cayman Islands. After many years in partnership, Divetech has moved its headquarters from Cobalt Coast Dive Resort to the Lighthouse Point development, while Reef Divers - well known from Cayman Brac and Little Cayman - is expanding on to the main island by moving into Cobalt Coast.

Divetech has carved out a solid reputation as one of the premier tech-diving centres in the Caribbean, but as well as catering for CCR

and open-circuit technical divers, they also support recreational diving, with guided boat dives, shore dives, certification courses and much more.

Reef Divers is renowned for its 'valet diving' on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, and the brand are planning on bringing this level of customer service to Grand Cayman. It will offer snorkelling excursions, guided boat-diving trips, certification courses, nitrox, and a full range of rental equipment for all levels of diver.



In AQABA the CHOICE is yours



Technical Diving

IN LANZAROTE



Come and enjoy the warm deep blue waters of the Atlantic, where we have over 30 dive sites on the island with depths of over 100m ranging from wrecks, caverns and breathtaking sea life.

We offer fully inclusive Tec Diving Packages, our in-house Trimix Instructor will guide you to some of the best diving sites to a depth of 50m and more.

A full range of Tec Diving Courses are also available with either TDi or PADI.

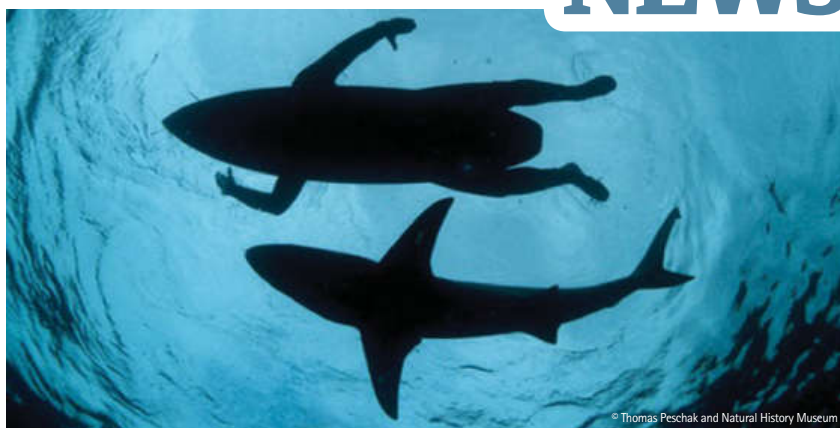
Rebreather Friendly: We offer fixed price rebreather diving with no surprise bills at the end of the week, our packages include rebreather cylinders, bailout stage(s), sofnolime & gases. Other packages available on request.

* VISIT US AT *
STAND 344
BIRMINGHAM DIVE SHOW

Photo © Stuart Philpott



lanzarotetecdiving.com
Tel. 0034 928 514 290



© Thomas Peschak and Natural History Museum

First glimpse of 2015 Wildlife Photographer of the Year images

Wrestling komodo dragons, ethereal egrets and thirsty squirrels are among the creatures captured on camera by this year's finalists for Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2015.

The exhibition opens on 16 October at the Natural History Museum in London, which runs the prestigious competition.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year is a global platform showcasing the natural world's most astonishing and challenging sights. The competition attracted over 42,000 entries from both professionals and amateurs from 96 countries.

The exhibition will feature the much-anticipated shortlisted and winning images, which reveal the richness and diversity of life on our

planet and challenge the way we think about the natural world.

Judged by a panel of industry-recognised professionals, the images are selected for their creativity, artistry and technical complexity.

The 100 shortlisted images - including the winning pictures - will also embark on an international tour spanning six continents, allowing millions of people to marvel at the beauty and variety of the natural world.

A mobile-friendly website gives exhibition visitors access to additional details on each image, a particularly useful feature during busy periods.

To check out more of this year's images, or to book tickets, visit www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy.

Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas to host world record attempts

Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas has announced the sponsorship of a series of Guinness World Record attempts to be held in Nassau early next year.

Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas will be working with Ms. Reem Aleidan, a certified scuba instructor, and her team from Kuwait to set new world records in the following categories:

- Longest Underwater Dive by a Woman
- Longest Underwater Dive by a Man (pending Guinness approval)
- Longest SHARK Dive by a Woman (pending Guinness approval)
- Longest SHARK Dive by a Man (pending Guinness approval)



Ms Reem said: "As one of the few Arab women scuba instructors in the world, plus being a single mother of two children, I was looking for a way to raise awareness for women's rights and the plight of Arab women in the Middle East. Being a woman in a male-dominated industry is a challenge, being a woman in the Middle East and wanting to teach diving is even more challenging. I am hoping by holding this event in the western world we can bring media attention to the plight of women like me in the Middle East."

Stuart Cove said: "We are utilising our many media and Hollywood connections to help drive publicity. We have applied and been accepted by Guinness to conduct these record attempts and are excited to be a part of something far larger and more global than us all individually."

lonely planet

Top 10 Cities
Best in Travel
2015
Valletta

MORE TO SEE

MORE TO DO

MORE TO REMEMBER

FLY DIRECT:



Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Glasgow*, Birmingham*, Bristol*, Cardiff*, Exeter*, Newcastle* & Norwich*



Gatwick



Belfast, Gatwick, Manchester & Newcastle



East Midlands, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, Manchester & Newcastle



Birmingham, Bournemouth*, Bristol, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Prestwick)*, Leeds Bradford, Liverpool, London Stansted & Luton

Terms & Conditions apply. *Summer Routes.

MALTA IS MORE

WWW.VISITMALTA.COM

f visitmalta @visitmaltauk



ATOMIC
AQUATICS

REGULATORS

**Quality Beneath
The Surface**



T3

*The ultimate;
lightweight and corrosion
free, designed with the
travel diver in mind.*



ST1

*The world's first
"Green" regulator.*



M1

*Extreme
Performance without
compromise.*



B2

*The perfect
combination of comfort,
performance, and style.*



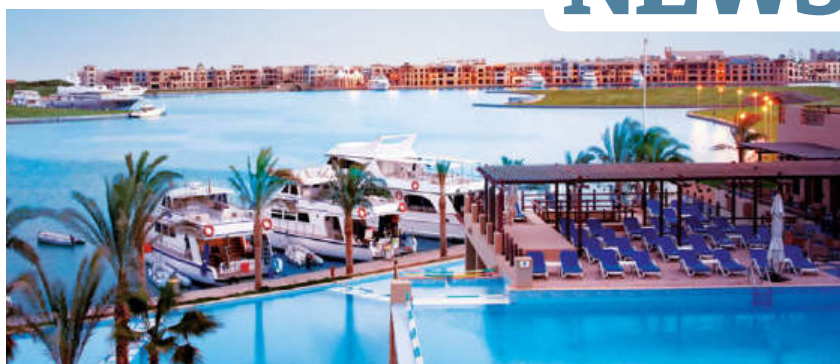
Z3

*Exclusive Atomic
features at a mid-range price.*

**Sport Diver
BEST
VALUE**

Atomic Aquatics Europe GmbH

www.atmicaquatics.co.uk



Marina Lodge extra value packages + free diving

The Marina Lodge Hotel, Port Ghalib, and Emperor Divers Marsa Alam have teamed up to offer great extra value packages for seven and 14 night stays. On both packages, Marina Lodge will give divers FREE add-ons with the choice of one of three great free gifts from Emperor. Guests will also automatically join

Marina Lodge's 'Loyalty Program' where they can bank nights to get a week's stay for free! With Emperor Divers' dayboats moored on the jetty just outside, diving has never been more convenient or better value! For information on the offers, visit www.emperordivers.com.

Andark appoints second PADI Course Director

Andark Diving and Watersports has announced the appointment of Jan van der Horst, who will be joining the Hampshire-based company as their second PADI Course Director on a part-time basis.

This is an exciting development for Andark's training operations as Jan will be working with Carl Yates, Andark's Diver Training Manager and Course Director, to progress the company up to 'PADI Career Development Centre' in the near future.

Jan is a PADI Course Director who has worked extensively in resorts across the world including Egypt, Greece and the Canary Islands.

"We're delighted to welcome Jan to Andark," said Andy Goddard, Andark Managing Director.



Aquarium fish health monitor being tested

Blue Planet Aquarium is trialling a behavioural data capture programme that aims to monitor fish health.

The system, developed by teams from the universities of Liverpool and Chester, uses data relayed back from two cameras placed in the tank.

The captured data scans fish movement in three dimensions and compares it to previously registered behaviour data for healthy fish. If the programme flags a potential problem, aquarium staff can step in.

Lynne Sneddon, director of bioveterinary

science at the University of Liverpool, said:

"The monitor uses non-invasive behavioural and physiological measurements to allow researchers and animal carers to accurately diagnose whether a fish is in pain or distress and to intervene accordingly."

It is an exciting time for aquarium staff, insists Blue Planet Aquarium curator David Wolfenden: "This monitor has the potential to revolutionise the care of aquatic life in captive environments worldwide, and it will be fascinating to see the results of its first trial in a public aquarium."

Correction - Narked at 90

In the Focus On Narked at 90 feature last month, some of the wording was slightly incorrect. It should have read: "Narked at 90 also makes and CE-tests parts for a variety of other rebreathers made by well-known companies, such as AP Diving and Megalodon."



Where the Queen holds court.

From Queen Triggerfish to living coral castles,
diving The Florida Keys really rules.
fla-keys.com/diving



The
Florida Keys
& **Key West**
... come as you are®

Dive Key West, Inc.

Keys' Premiere Dive Center. Our 45th year. Dive
"The Vandenberg"! Custom dive & lodging packages.
305-296-3823 divekeywest.com

Conch Republic Divers, Islamorada

Dive the Upper Keys WRECKS and REEFS from
Key Largo to Islamorada. Tech friendly.
305-852-1655 conchrepublicdivers.com

Amy Slate's Amoray Dive Resort, Key Largo

Waterfront rooms, pool, beach, scuba, snorkel instr.
& boat charters. 3 nts/2 dive pkg from US\$300 ppdo.
305-451-3595 amoray.com

Key Largo Cottages @ Key Lime Sailing Club

FREE kayaks, bicycles, sailing, fishing, snorkel,
sunset sail w/cottage US\$175 NT.
305-451-3438 keylimesailingclub.com

Holiday Inn Key Largo

Located next to deep-water marina.
Spacious guest rooms. Restaurant on-site.
305-451-2121 holidayinn.com/keylargofl



HSE Scuba Diver Courses

PADI Courses - TDI Courses

RIB Trips - Hard boat charters

Nitrox- 300 Bar

Self Service filling panel

Equipment Rental & Repairs

Diving Shop

Launching & Mooring Facilities

Accommodation

Premier Quality Diving



**Puffin
Dive
Centre**

Port Gallanach
Oban - Scotland - PA34 3QH
Telephone: 01631 566088
Freephone: 0800 542 8181
Fax: 01631 566 112
Email: info@puffin-erg.uk
Web: www.puffin-erg.uk



DIVE DOCTOR: Medical Q&A

Dr Oliver Firth has gained considerable experience in the field of diving and hyperbaric medicine since joining LDC in 2006. He is an Approved Medical Examiner of Divers for the UK HSE, and a medical referee for the UK Sport Diving Medical Committee. He is involved in the management of all types of diving-related illness, including recompression treatment, as well as providing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for non-diving conditions. He remains a passionate diver and has participated in various expeditions and conservation projects throughout the globe.



Q: Hi, I hope you can help with my query. As a child I was diagnosed with curvature of the spine (scoliosis). It did not affect me much in terms of activities - I could still participate in sports and it was not painful. The worst thing I remember is being made fun of at school for having jutting out ribs on one side. But as a teenager it seemed to get worse, so I ended up having surgery where some of my spine was fused together. I have always wanted to take up diving but have heard that scoliosis (and the surgery for it) can cause lung problems. Would this affect my ability to dive?

A: The list of eminent humans with scoliosis is long and surprising. The tortured soul of Kurt Cobain, lead singer of the band Nirvana, was partly due to a scoliosis which caused him severe back pain every time he picked up a guitar. A fellow twisted sister is Sarah Michelle Gellar, aka Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Perhaps most unexpected is that the fastest man alive, Usain Bolt, was born with a scoliosis. It doesn't seem to have done him much harm. The extent of the curvature varies considerably in scoliosis, and some cases are so severe that the chest wall becomes distorted. This can result in an abnormal chest cavity, reducing the space available to the lungs for expansion. In extreme cases this could cause obstruction to the expanding gas on ascent from a dive, leading to pulmonary barotrauma and lung collapse. Imaging studies such as chest X-rays or CT scans of the chest would be needed to assess this risk. Awkward lifting of tanks and weights can easily cause spinal injuries, and a pre-existing scoliosis might increase this risk. The exit up a boat ladder in a good-going swell while kitted up with twin-12s is one to avoid. However, with enough planning and avoidance of scenarios like this, the difficulties should recede in the relatively gravity-free environment of the water.

Q: I'm in my mid 40s and am fed up with my wife's snide remarks about the size of my pot belly and rather puny muscles. So I've started a weightlifting programme. My fellow body builders at the gym all swear by creatine supplements. I read that it's a 'nitrogen-containing substance produced naturally in your body and is found in meat, poultry and fish'. From a diving perspective, the scary words here, obviously, are 'nitrogen-containing'. Any worries that I'll increase my likelihood of getting bent if I use these supplements?

A: 'Protorexia' - not an escaped man-eating dinosaur from the Jurassic World set, but a new term coined to describe the increasing consumption of protein shakes by obsessive and unfeasibly muscular gym addicts. Many do indeed contain creatine, which helps provide energy for muscle contractions - and those few extra reps in theory lead to bigger muscles, as well as improving recovery times. Whether these claims are true or not, taking nitrogen-containing supplements will not affect your chances of developing decompression illness (DCI). The nitrogen in the supplements is molecular ('solid') nitrogen and its absorption into the blood won't be affected by depth or pressure. In order to get bent, a diver has to have nitrogen in 'gaseous' form (i.e. bubbles) in the tissues; this comes from the breathing gas (usually air, which is about 80 percent nitrogen). Most significant dives will saturate at least some of the body's tissues with nitrogen at depth, and it will come out of solution as bubbles on ascent. If these bubbles cannot be cleared sufficiently by the lungs, they may produce symptoms of DCI. Finally, an encouraging leaf out of the sweetly named Pot Belly Seahorse's book: "they can't move very fast and don't do well in water that moves quickly - they try to keep up but simply get too exhausted and end up dying". A good incentive to clear that excess flab!

For more Q&As from Dr Oli, check out:
www.sportdiver.co.uk/divedoctor



Sport Diver
DECEMBER ISSUE
ON SALE
Wednesday
4 November

GALAPAGOS BOUND

JEREMY CUFF IS LEFT AWESTRUCK BY THE MARINE LIFE ENCOUNTERS AROUND THESE ICONIC ISLANDS

FIRTH FISHER FOUND

STUART PHILPOTT WAXES LYRICAL ABOUT A SOUTH COAST SHIPWRECK WITH MUCH TO OFFER DIVERS

EXPLORING THE 'ZEN'

WE VENTURE INTO CYPRUS' ZENOBIA SHIPWRECK - THE UNDOUBTED STAR OF THE ISLAND'S DIVE SCENE

OMAN, 15 YEARS ON

MARK EVANS RETURNS TO OMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2000 - HOW WILL THE COUNTRY HAVE CHANGED?

buyamag.co.uk

Great magazines direct to your door

Pre-order the December issue today and **SAVE £1** off the shop price! Go to [www.buyamag.co.uk](http://www.buyamag.co.uk/SportDiver) and enter code 'SP79D'



LEARN TO DIVE @ SHARM'S PREMIERE TEACHING FACILITY



**NEW SPECIAL
2 IN 1
PRE-BOOK
PADI E-LEARNING
OPEN WATER
PLUS+
PADI ADVANCED
OPEN WATER
& GO FROM 0 - 30
IN 6 DAYS**

30m

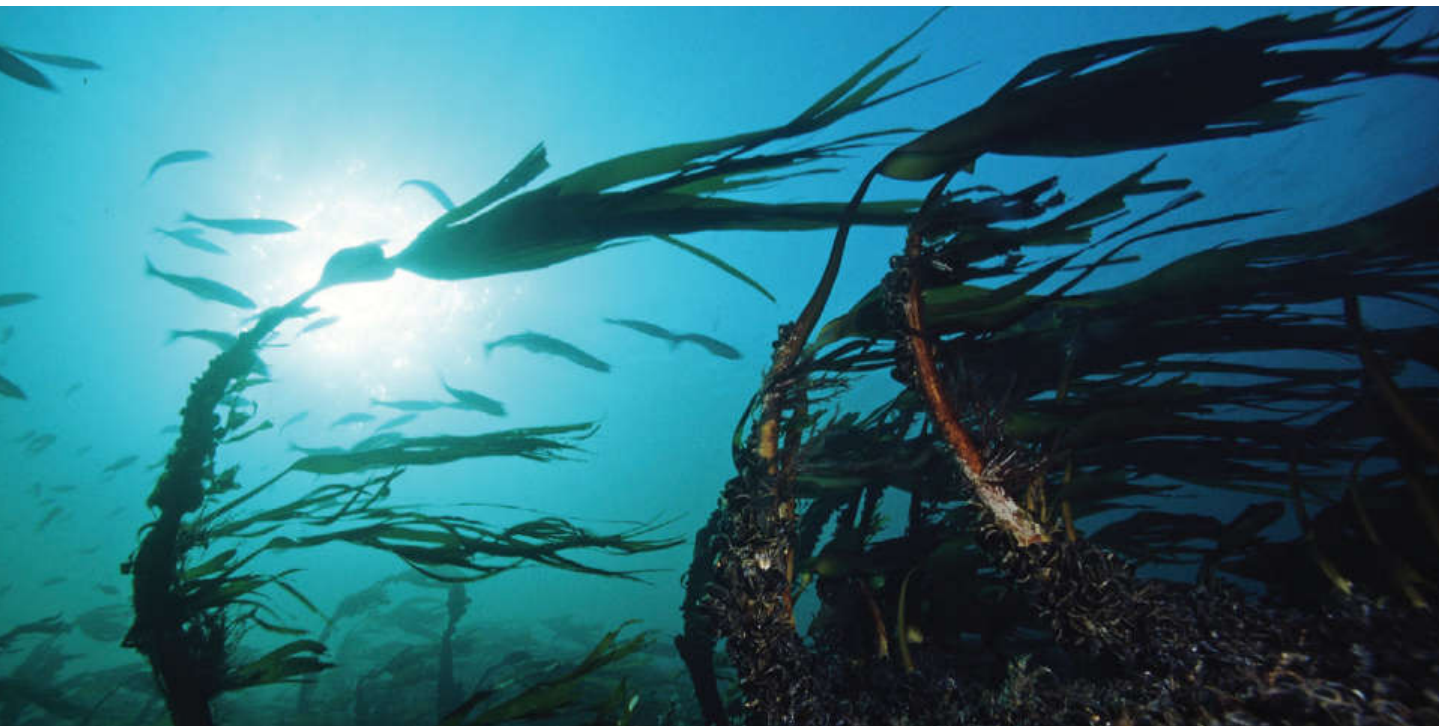


+20 69 3600145
INFO@REDSEACOLLEGE.COM
www.redseacollege.com

TOP *Drift* DIVES

Drift dives can be a thrill-a-minute, rock-and-roll ride, and the **SPORT DIVER TEAM** is hopelessly addicted to these kinds of dives. Here we select ten of our favourites

Photographs by GAVIN ANDERSON, MARK EVANS, WILL HARRISON,
FREDRIC IHRSEN AND DAVID JONES



SALTSTRAUMEN, NORWAY

Saltstraumen in Norway has the world's strongest tidal current, which can reach up to 26 knots. Every six hours, more than 375 million cubic litres of water pass through the narrow and shallow strait of Saltstraumen, creating the world-famous Maelstrom and its whirlpools. Where better to go for a drift dive?

The boiling current brings with it rich nutrients from the deep sea floor, and this gives the area a huge diversity and quantity of marine life. While there are dives suitable for any divers, the best, most-thrilling - such as Brukaret - are reserved for those with experience, good buoyancy control and drysuit diving skills, but even then, the strong currents and depths make it a seriously demanding diving environment.

DIVE PALAU | DRIFT DIVE DREAM

Tailor-made worldwide dive holidays

Pick our brains and share our first-hand experience

- One of the best drift dives in the world (PADI bucket list)
- Ulong Channel – for new and experienced drift divers alike
- Grey reef sharks, coral gardens
- Ideal for year-round holidaying
- Wrecks & Jellyfish Lake

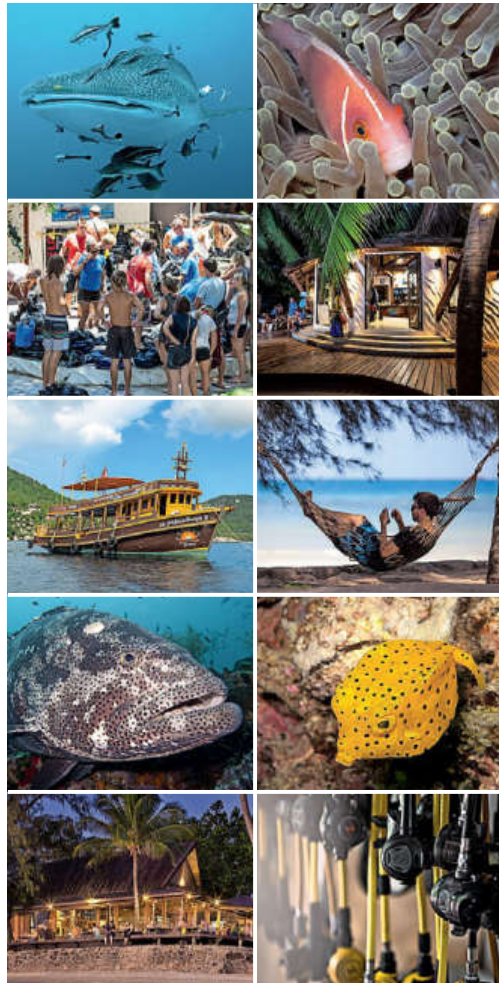
PERSONALISED SERVICE | IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE | GREAT VALUE

COCOS ISLAND GALAPAGOS INDONESIA MALDIVES OMAN PALAU
RED SEA SOCORRO ISLANDS SOUTHERN AFRICA TRUK YAP

Freephone 0800 915 4436
info@diversetravel.co.uk
www.diversetravel.co.uk



Diverse



YOU'VE HEARD OF PARADISE?

**That little place we all want to go, at least for some part of our lives...
Well, we found it. And we dived it. And we've made a place for you too.**

Sairee cottage diving is Koh Taos' premier diving school. A PADI 5 Star IDC centre where you can dive the finest waters with masters of the art. Learn and dive with state of the art facilities and equipment, in the only dive centre in Koh Tao to hold the 'Pure Air' award by Bauer compressors. Whether it's instructor courses, beginner classes or specialties, we have the course for you.



www.saireecottagediving.com
mail: info@saireecottagediving.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SaireeCottageDivingKohTao>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Diving_KohTao
Blog: <http://blog.saireecottagediving.com/>



Life's short. Make every dive count.



KAMIKAZE CUT, TOBAGO

Cozumel might be the undisputed king of the Caribbean drift-diving scene for US divers, but the tiny island of Tobago has held the title among European divers for many years. This Windward Isle, located near the coast of Venezuela, is buffeted by strong currents, which disperse rich nutrients from the Orinoco River throughout the coastal reefs, making them a Mecca for pelagic filter feeders such as manta rays, a regular sight at choice locations.

Japanese Gardens in Speyside is the entry point for one of the most thrilling of Tobago's steaming drifts. Catch it on a good day and you will be fired headlong through stunning reef gardens teeming with reef fish, moray eels, turtles and nurse sharks.

Just as you think you are getting to grips with the wild ride, the current increases, sending you inexorably towards a narrow, two-metre-wide passage in a set of towering boulders - the Kamikaze Cut. Once catapulted through this opening, the current soon dissipates, allowing divers to thankfully catch their breath and round out the dive cruising over beautiful coral gardens while relishing the drift they have just experienced.



MANTA POINT, KOMODO

We've all dived sites called Shark Alley, Barracuda Wall or Turtle Reef, and more often than not you don't see a single shark, barracuda or turtle... Komodo's Manta Point not only regularly delivers manta rays (and plenty of them), but it does so in a punchy current. Located in the world famous Komodo National Park, where currents can be found on many of the dives, Manta Point is a special one - while most of the other sites teem with life and colourful corals, this site is about the mantas and nothing else. The buffeting current has seen to it that the seabed, which lies at about 15-18m, is a moonscape, nothing but a collection of dead coral and loose rock. This means that there is very little to hold on to, so keep your eyes peeled for those manta rays as you whizz past!

KUREDU EXPRESS, THE MALDIVES

Due to the nature of many of the dive sites in the Maldives, visitors to this idyllic Indian Ocean paradise can often expect strong currents, especially on the many channel dives situated in the surrounding walls of the various atolls. The Kuredu Express is one such dive in the Lhaviyani Atoll and, as the name suggests, it is far from a gentle mooch down the reef. Instead, strong currents sweep down a channel to a corner where the reef falls into neat terraced steps - the perfect location to select your depth, reef hook in and take in the view, which will often involve sharks, rays and other oceanic hunters effortlessly darting about in the whirling water. Once you've tired of being constantly jostled by the current, you can unhook and allow the surge to sweep you along the reef wall, where there are two large bays covered in brightly coloured soft corals and home to large shoals of snapper, chromis and butterflyfish.



STREAMSTOWN DRIFT, IRELAND

The west coast of Ireland might seem an unusual destination for a warp factor drift dive, but the Streamstown Drift sees divers flock to ride six-knot currents charging up an ever-narrowing inlet that spikes several miles inland.

Divers ride small inflatables into the mouth of the inlet, and then have to do fast negative descents to the bottom in 10-11m as the current begins to take them inland. The vis at the start of the dive can often be just a couple of metres, so it is difficult to fathom how fast you are actually travelling, but soon this increases and you can see swathes of seaweed and kelp whipping wildly beneath you as you are driven endlessly onwards. The depth reduces further as you get into the inlet, and once you are in 5-6m it really picks up the pace. Some 25 tiring minutes later, you make your way cross-current into the shallows on the left-hand side of the inlet and then stand in waist-deep water waiting for the inflatable to come and pick you up. And because you don't use much air on the drift, everyone generally opts to go back to the beginning and do it all over again!

CLUTHA RIVER, NEW ZEALAND

Rivers can be one of the best places for serious, hardcore drift dive addicts, but it isn't always easy to find one that ticks all the boxes for speed of current, depth and visibility. The Clutha River, in New Zealand's South Islands, manages to get a high score across the board.

Divers of all experience levels will find something to float their boat along a 20-mile stretch of river, but for the real speed junkies, one section some four miles long is where it's at, with currents of up to 12mph screaming over boulders, beneath rapids and even through whirlpools - one, at Devil's Nook, is often described as an 'underwater tornado'.

The Maldives... "An incredible underwater adventure awaits!"



Kuredu Island Resort
www.kuredu.com



Komandoo Island Resort
www.komandoo.com



Vakarufalhi Island Resort
www.vakaru.com



Lily Beach Island Resort
www.lilybeachmaldives.com

prodivers
kuredu • komandoo • vakarufalhi • lily beach

For more information visit www.prodivers.com

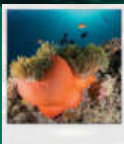


The Magical Maldives...

Discover more of this underwater playground with liveaboard diving



M/Y **Sea Spirit**



M/Y **blue Voyager**



With all but 0.3% of land in the Maldives submerged, don't miss out on the opportunity to see as much of this fantastic diving destination as possible. Choose from our range of luxury liveaboards including our newly refurbished fleet vessel, M/Y blue Voyager.

With so much to see, why limit yourself? Relax in comfort on board a luxurious liveaboard vessel and allow an expert team to take you to some of the very best dive sites on offer with the potential for once in a lifetime marine life sightings. Sail through paradise and experience the true magic of the Maldives...

For further information visit us on stand 815 at DIVE 2015, check out our website or contact one of our expert travel team today!

www.blueotwo.com/sport
tel: +44 (0) 1752 480 808 | email: info@blueotwo.com

Best Tour Operator 2014 & 2013 and Best Liveaboard 2013: Sport Diver Awards | Liveaboard of the Year 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2007 and Tour Operator of the Year 2011: DIVER Awards



Polaroid 4 © Fergus Kennedy

www.blueotwo.com/sport

tel: +44 (0) 1752 480 808 | email: info@blueotwo.com



BSAC
Partner



BLUEWATERSCUBA

Your Local Dive Centre in the Med



Top Destination for Diving Holidaymakers
SUNSHINE ISLAND OF MENORCA
Less than 2 hours away

**DAILY HARD BOAT DIVING FROM
CALA'N BOSCH MARINA**

**SPECIAL DEALS FOR GROUPS,
CLUBS & SCHOOLS**

**PLUS STING RAY SURVEY WEEKS
(May & June)**

- Outstanding cavern diving
- Fascinating topography
- Excellent Mediterranean marine life
- Incredible Visibility

**DISCOUNTS OFFERED
on Advanced Bookings**

www.bluewaterscuba.co.uk



BLUEWATER SCUBA - PADI Dive Center #23504

Cap d'Artrutx, Cala'n Bosch - MENORCA

T/F: +34 971 38 71 83

M: +34 860 846 150



The most **UNIQUE**
dive resort in the world at one of the
WORLD'S BEST dive destinations!
SIPADAN



www.seaventuresdive.com

+60 88 261 669 | 251 669 | www.seaventuresdive.com

AQUA LUNG

Head South
for warmer diving

MALTAQUA

Recreational & Technical Diving

DEALS

December 1st-20th

**Independent package
for dive groups and schools**



Apartment for 7 nights
Tank & weight hire
and FREE air fills

€130 - £92 p.p.

Terms: Minimum 4 divers
Minimum qualification
of Advanced Open
water level

Escorted diving with our Instructors

Apartment for 7 nights
3 days diving with
6 escorted shore dives,
tank & weight hire,
and road transport
to dive sites

€280 - £200 p.p.

Terms: Minimum 2 persons
Qualified Open water
or above.



**Looking to complete
BSAC/TDI training?**

**BSAC & TDI Instructors
available throughout
December.**

Email us your needs.



providing the highest
standards in diver training



www.MALTAQUA.com

Mosta Road, St. Paul's Bay, SPB 3114 Malta

T: +356 21 571 111 or 21 572 558 E: dive@maltaqua.com

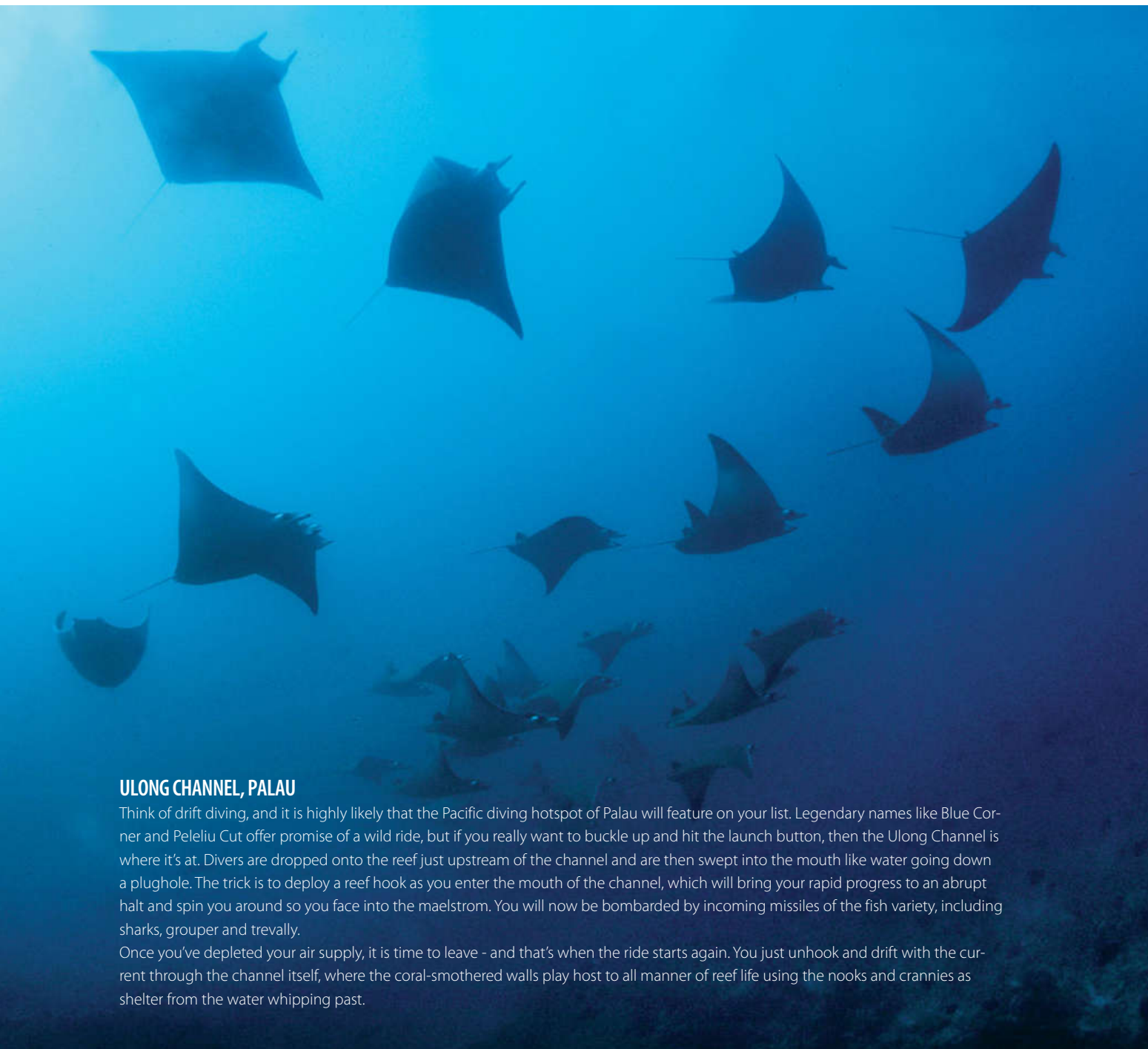


PROTEA BANKS, SOUTH AFRICA

Protea Banks in South Africa is known as a hotspot for shark diving, but one of the most-exciting shark dives is also an extremely fast drift dive. Dive boats anchor to mooring balls and deploy a baitbox, which rapidly attracts scores of blacktip sharks, jostling and bumping one another. Then the main event puts in an appearance - tiger sharks.

As soon as tigers arrive on the scene, the divers enter the water and the skippers will release the mooring line, allowing the RIB - and the divers hanging at 6-8m near the baitbox among the gang of sharks - to drift with the sometimes ripping current.

However, because the bottom can be way out of sight, and everything - boat, baitbox, divers, sharks - are all travelling at the same speed in the flow, it can be hard to gain an understanding for just how fast you are going. Just occasionally, a pinnacle of seabed will poke into sight, and then you will see that you are really flying.



ULONG CHANNEL, PALAU

Think of drift diving, and it is highly likely that the Pacific diving hotspot of Palau will feature on your list. Legendary names like Blue Corner and Peleliu Cut offer promise of a wild ride, but if you really want to buckle up and hit the launch button, then the Ulong Channel is where it's at. Divers are dropped onto the reef just upstream of the channel and are then swept into the mouth like water going down a plughole. The trick is to deploy a reef hook as you enter the mouth of the channel, which will bring your rapid progress to an abrupt halt and spin you around so you face into the maelstrom. You will now be bombarded by incoming missiles of the fish variety, including sharks, grouper and trevally.

Once you've depleted your air supply, it is time to leave - and that's when the ride starts again. You just unhook and drift with the current through the channel itself, where the coral-smothered walls play host to all manner of reef life using the nooks and crannies as shelter from the water whipping past.

GREY SHARK WALL, FAKARAVA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

French Polynesia might be an awful long way to travel, but iconic dives like Fakarava make it all worthwhile. Located in the remote Tuamotus, this hotspot may be a dream for adrenaline junkies, but it is certainly not for the faint-hearted.

Divers are dropped at the south end of the atoll near the mouth of the Tumakohua Pass, a thin channel leading into the vast lagoon within. On an incoming tide, the current swirls and boils through this cut at amazing speeds, firing divers into the calmer waters of the lagoon.

But the highlight of the dive actually comes before the raging ride into the atoll. As you get to the point of no return and prepare to enter the channel, you have to glide through Grey Shark Wall, a towering gauntlet of sharks - grey reef, blacktips, whitetips and more - that block the entrance.

PALANCAR DEEP, COZUMEL

Not a destination that registers that highly to UK divers, Cozumel is to US divers what the Egyptian Red Sea is to European divers. It's only a short flight away from various North American hub airports, it offers warm, clear waters, plenty of marine life, a wide range of facilities - oh, and more awesome drift dives than you can imagine.

In fact, Coz - as it is known to US aficionados - is the unofficial drift-diving capital of the Caribbean, and one of the sites that has helped it gain such a stellar reputation is Palancar Deep, a small section of the lengthy Palancar Reef system. Here deep cracks and swim-throughs litter the sheer wall, meaning divers have the opportunity to dip in and out of the constant current as they marvel at the colourful soft corals and sponges adorning every single spot of reef real estate. The currents are also a magnet for marine life, including sharks, eagle rays and barracuda.



Diving Holidays



SEE
US AT
STAND
920

See us at
DIVE
2015
NEC, Birmingham
24/25 October

Worldwide



50+ destinations



PADI Centres



Liveaboards

NEW Wrecks of Coron
NEW Raja Ampat

SHOW OFFERS
— SAVE £1,000 —

Philippines, Bali, Manado,
Maldives & Indian Ocean,
Far East & Latin America,
Red Sea, Caribbean & Pacific.

GROUP DISCOUNTS
& FREE PLACES

www.sportifdive.co.uk
01273 844919



WORLDWIDE DIVING

Tailor-made Holidays, Resorts & Liveaboards
in over 20 top dive destinations worldwide

- LIVEABOARDS
- MALTA & GOZO
- AZORES
- RED SEA
- OMAN
- MALDIVES
- INDONESIA
- PHILIPPINES
- THAILAND
- MEXICO
- CARIBBEAN
- PEMBA
- GALAPAGOS & MORE



© Malcom Nobbs

Regaldiver

The Diving Holiday Specialists

01353 659999
www.regaldiver.co.uk



**PAPUA
DIVING**
RESORTS
KRI ECO - SORIDO BAY

Going the extra smile for you.

What's your picture of a perfect
diving holiday?

Great dives, caring buddies, delicious
food, ... all in all: memories that last long
beyond your tanline.

Papua Diving's twin retreats Sorido Bay
and Kri Eco, centrally located in the
marine sanctuary of Raja Ampat on the
island "Kri" offer a great opportunity, for
those who wish to escape from clutter
and every day routine.

WWW.PAPUA-DIVING.COM





Celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2016, with over 135,000 PADI professionals and more than 6,000 dive shops and resorts worldwide, PADI training materials and services let you experience scuba diving from nearly anywhere. Scuba diving with PADI instructors, dive centres and resorts can help transform your life through education, experience and environmental conservation.

JOIN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DIVING CLUB | BECOME PART OF ONE GLOBAL FAMILY

SIMON SAYS...

Simon R Chance, manager, PADI Diving Society and PADI Retailer & Resort Associations

"FEAR, OH!" TO HERO

Johanna McManus was previously terrified of deep water, the result of a poorly conducted snorkelling trip over the Blue Hole, in Dahab.

Despite this, the allure of aquatic interactions was sufficiently strong that Johanna decided to challenge her fears in 2012, while on holiday in Turkey, setting, as her goal, the sight of turtles swimming freely. While there, her Instructor helped Johanna take things a step further, trying a full Discover Scuba programme; so successful was this experience that Johanna went on to complete further Discover programmes there, purging the legacy of her previous bad experience and setting a new course in her life.

Completing her PADI Open Water Diver certi-

fication later the same year, Johanna then faced any remaining demons head-on, returning to Dahab for her Advanced Open Water Diver programme as something of a Christmas present to herself, and surrounding it with numerous - though still somewhat nervous - pleasure dives, rediscovering the abundant charm offered to divers at this famed Bedouin village.

From there, Johanna's love for diving just grew and grew. A peek into padi.com revealed Bolton Area Divers just a few miles along the A58 from her UK home, so on her return to England it was back into the water for her Drysuit certification, which then opened further opportunities to dive year-round - and

is described by Johanna herself as the day that changed her life. Spending every weekend in the water with PADI Instructors fostered an interest in helping others discover their own new experiences and, from joining the ranks of PADI Professionals as a Divemaster in September 2013, Johanna achieved full PADI Instructor certification in the Summer of 2014.

And Johanna has been using that certification to great effect; already a PADI "Elite 50" Instructor before 2015 began, she spent the early months working to achieve her IDC Staff Instructor credential, helping to support and encourage new PADI Instructor candidates in preparation for their Instructor Exams. Back in Egypt for the summer - "what other job", asks Johanna, "can you do in your swimwear, in a natural aquarium, with new things to see all the time?" - Johanna is now working toward Master Instructor certification, with a Side-mount Instructor credential on the, er, side.

The story doesn't stop there, though; although a long-term sufferer of Crohn's disease, Johanna's condition is now in remission, off medication without relapse, which she firmly believes is due to diving. Just how cool is *that*?



Johanna facing her fears in Turkey - early steps on a road that has led to full PADI Professional credentials

The PADI Diving Society has been in existence since 1997, and from humble beginnings has grown substantially, within a few years reaching heady heights of 'world's biggest diving club'. With membership now standing at over 180,000 keen, active divers across the planet, the PADI Diving Society represents a formidable 'tribe'. Now all three sectors of the PADI Diving Society - Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe, Middle East and Africa - have moved from been connected but fractured, uniting under a global banner and becoming one entity, with a unified approach and single magazine title reaching all members, everywhere. www.padi.com/scuba-diving

FACEBOOK.COM/PADI | TWITTER.COM/PADI | WWW.SCUBAEARTH.COM

ANOTHER GREAT REASON TO DIVE HURGHADA!

A very special PADI Dive Day is taking place in Egypt on 14 October this year; organised in partnership with Turkish Airlines and HEPCA, PADI Dive Centres and Resorts in the Hurghada area will be coming together to build on the impromptu, but nonetheless highly successful, clean-up event held in February.

Focused once more on Magawish Island, Project AWARE and HEPCA themed clean-up dives will be augmented by some underwater games during the day, with boats laid on by PADI operators in the area returning to the Hurghada Marina to off-load collected rubbish at the day's end, where participants will enjoy a BBQ and prize giving, including flight tickets with Turkish Airlines, diving equipment from local distributors and PADI products.

Also new for this year is that Turkish Airlines are offering discounted flights for all divers participating in the event, for which a special code will be provided by participating local PADI destination centres. Contact: prra.emea@padi.com for further details and to check participation.

HOLD YOUR BREATH!

As PADI prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2016, the organisation is expanding beyond scuba diving to offer training in one of the fastest-growing dive industry segments - freediving. Continuing the core business practice of delivering high-quality instructional courses, the PADI Freediver programme will debut in November at DEMA Show 2015 in Orlando, Florida, USA.

"Many PADI Professionals are avid freedivers and enjoy sharing their passion for breathhold diving with others," says James Morgan, PADI Americas vice president of training and customer service. "The number of self-authored PADI Distinctive Specialty courses involving freediving has grown over the past few years and the popularity of the PADI Free Diving Distinctive Specialty course released in 2014 is further evidence of this rapidly expanding market. As mainstream interest in the sport swells, freediving is a natural extension for dive education and the industry as a whole."

The PADI Freediver programme is complete with student materials and instructional tools that follow the PADI educational philosophy, which makes it easy for qualified PADI Professionals to quickly start teaching. Like all PADI courses, the programme was bred from first-hand experience as industry experts and competitive freedivers played a critical role in its development. This key advisory group, including Jay Huang of Taiwan, Myoung-ho Noh of South Korea, Liz Parkinson of the Bahamas,

Sam Amps of the United Kingdom, and Alejandro Lemus of Mexico, worked closely with the PADI organisation to establish a freediving training curriculum that addresses technique, form and safety for nearly any experience level.

"The PADI Freediver programme provides PADI Members with additional revenue-generating opportunities by allowing them to expand their course offerings and reach a younger demographic," says Bob Coleman, PADI Americas vice president of sales and field services. "PADI Freediver will also help PADI Retail and Resort members increase equipment sales."

The PADI Freediver tiered course structure has participants build upon their skill sets and knowledge as they advance from PADI Freediver to PADI Advanced Freediver and, ultimately, PADI Master Freediver. The program provides three corresponding instructor levels (Freediver Instructor, Advanced Freediver Instructor and Master Freediver Instructor), as well as a Freediver Instructor Trainer rating. There is also a subset programme called Basic Freediver, where students earn a certification in confined water.

PADI Freediver will feature quality, tablet-based training materials so students can access PADI Freediver Touch from the convenience of their tablets with or without an internet connection.

LEADING THE WAY

Many congratulations, to this latest group of PADI Master Scuba Divers from the UK, whose "black belts" have been awarded or highlighted to us in the last month or so:



- Csaba Barta, Hampstead, London
- William Foreman, Morpeth, Northumberland
- Danielle Hayes, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
- George Taylor, Whittlesford, Cambridge
- Tim Whittam, Bradford, West Yorkshire

Between them, these five intrepid aquanauts have certified from Sharm to the Seychelles, St. George's, Grenada to Sumbawa Besar, Indonesia, and from Leeds to Lombok. One, I note, has certified prodigiously in S'Algar, Menorca - which is where, aged about three, I first donned a mask and snorkel (yes, they had been invented even back then!)

Well done once again to them all and, indeed, to all PADI Master Scuba Divers, wherever you are; as always, if you or a buddy have been missed from this list, please just let us know and we will be pleased to give your achievements the wider audience they so richly deserve!

The prestigious Master Scuba Diver certification - the highest non-professional certification awarded by PADI - recognizes a diver's mastery of personal diving skills in a minimum of five different Diver Specialty areas, as well as their ability to demonstrate dependable Rescue and Emergency Responder techniques. Not surprisingly, given our shared commitment to diving and all things aquatic, a significant number of PADI Diving Society members have either achieved this award already, or are currently working towards achieving it.

If you would like to know more about the PADI Master Scuba Diver programme, contact your local PADI Professional, or visit PADI's website via <http://tinyurl.com/PADIMasterDiver>

Roho has been manufacturing drysuits for over 31 years, so we really do understand the needs of divers.

The **Roho drysuit range** includes drysuits such as the **Endurance, X-Flex, Duratek and Commercial**. We make drysuits for divers whatever your level.

Our **made to measure service** means you can combine, fit, fabrics, features and colours to create the perfect drysuit just for you.



roho - designed, developed and manufactured in the UK by RobinHood Watersports; established 1981

LOCATION:
anywhere in the world

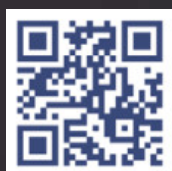
DIVE SITE:
anywhere your heart desires

DEPTH:
as deep as you can go

TEMPERATURE:
what you can withstand our dry suits can



trust roho



01924 444888
www.roho.co.uk
dive@roho.co.uk

independently owned for over 31 years



bluewaterseries

The Dive Behind the Photo (Part 1)

Mantas are found in tropical and subtropical waters around the world, making diving with this majestic creature more accessible than you may think. **David Valencia** recounts his incredible encounter with the Giant Pacific Manta in the remote waters of Socorro:

"Giant Pacific Mantas are graceful in every turn. It's no wonder divers fly all over the world to see these gentle giants. However, mantas are listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species. In certain parts of the world, these mantas are becoming increasingly rare as they face persistent fishing pressure."



In Mexico's Socorro Islands, located some 250 miles SE of Cabo San Lucas, interactions with mantas are magnificent. It's not just the sighting of mantas that can make dives with them special, but also the type of interaction. To the delight of divers, mantas enjoy bubbles on their bellies and they will soak up the bubbles as long as there are divers. It's an amazing sight to see and it also provides divers with a unique insight into their behaviour. During this dive while we were playing with the mantas, my dive buddy, Adil, happened to be filming as a black manta slowly squeezed between us. The large manta (approx. 5 meters/16 feet from wingtip to wingtip) was gliding over me to get to my bubbles. As the manta soaked up the bubbles, I could look into its eye and see it processing our interaction. This occurred non-stop for the entirety of our dive."



Six Top Manta Destinations

If you dream of sharing your scuba bubbles with a manta ray, diving the right place at the right time of year will certainly help increase the chances of making your dream a reality.

- **Isla San Benedicto, Mexico** - World-renowned for personal encounters with the Giant Pacific Manta ray.
- **Indonesia** - With close to 18,000 islands, this archipelago offers a number of dive sites to swim with manta rays.
- **Kona, Hawaii, USA** - lights on night dives attract plankton, bringing mantas for an encounter you won't forget.
- **Great Barrier Reef, Australia** - Known for its abundance of manta rays, spectacular life and unspoiled reef.
- **Mi'il Channel, Yap, Micronesia** - Mantas visit this cleaning station so often that individuals are known by name.
- **Baa Atoll, Maldives** - See dozens of mantas on a single dive. Up to 240 have been seen here in a single day.

Be inspired by David Valencia's story with a PADI limited edition Blue Water Series certification card. Visit a PADI Dive Center or Resort or padi.com to order yours today!



Project AWARE Foundation is a growing movement of scuba divers protecting the ocean planet - one dive at a time. Over the past two decades of underwater conservation we've learned that divers are true leaders in ocean protection. We're ocean heroes numbering in the millions across the globe. We believe together our actions will make a huge impact and will help to rescue the ocean. www.projectaware.org

JOIN THE MOVEMENT | PROTECT THE OCEAN



MY OCEAN NEWS

Domino Albert,
Manager, Project AWARE EMEA

"What will you do to protect the ocean?"

That was the call from the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, earlier in the year, in anticipation of the Our Ocean Conference 2015 that took place in Chile from 5-6 October. With recent news announcing that by 2025, as much as 250 million metric tons of plastic could make its way into marine environments, it's getting harder and harder to believe that plastic pollution in our ocean is not a lost cause. I often get disheartened and overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the global marine debris crisis but opportunities like Our Ocean 2015, where over 400 political, academic and civil society figures as well as industry, philanthropy and non-profit leaders discussed the fate of our oceans, give me hope. Not because promises and commitments are being made, but because it restores my faith in the power of the dive community to make a difference. Project AWARE was invited to participate in the Our Ocean 2015 conference to represent the collective voice of the dive community and help shed some light on what lies Beneath The Waves. During the 30 days leading up to the conference, more than 1,000 marine debris photos tagged with #BeneathTheWaves were shared on Twitter and Instagram. It showed decision makers how divers are working year-round to reduce trash in ocean ecosystems and provided a visual representation of the negative effects of marine debris on underwater environments. Your Beneath the Waves photos helped us urge leaders to support solutions leading to a reduction in marine debris. **So what do we do to protect the ocean?** From reporting marine debris data through Dive Against Debris to protecting marine species, we are joining forces to protect the ocean - one dive at a time.

projectaware.org

CLIMATE CHANGE: BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

By *Domino Albert*, Manager, Project AWARE EMEA



We have a tendency to talk about climate change as something distant, something to fix for the future. But the reality is: global warming is already having significant and harmful effects. Polar bears for example, the 'poster child' for global warming, are not the only animals already feeling the effects of global climate change on the oceans. Researchers are warning that our oceans are rapidly approaching a point of no return where climate change will drastically alter marine habitats and what life they can support. They argue that the likely impacts of climate change on oceans have been underestimated, and a new more intense focus on oceans is urgently needed.

In December 2015, all eyes will be on Paris where representatives of 196 countries will attempt to reach an agreement at the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference (COP 21) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the aim of limiting a global temperature increase to below 2°C.

HOW CAN DIVERS HELP?

Global warming and ocean acidification are putting our favourite animals and the whole ocean planet at risk. But we can do our part by understanding and reducing our carbon footprint, and look for ways to offset what we can't reduce. As part of the 10 Tips for Divers to Protect the Ocean Planet, Project AWARE is encouraging divers to assess their carbon footprint and take action to tackle it. The absorption of carbon dioxide emissions by the ocean has a direct impact on marine ecosystems. The good news is reducing our carbon footprint can be as easy as making the switch to renewable energy. In the UK for instance, electricity is the biggest single source of carbon emissions. UK divers can make a difference by switching their gas and electricity provider to Project AWARE's partner Ecotricity, the UK green energy company. By switching to Ecotricity, not only will you be doing your bit for the environment, but Ecotricity will donate up to £60 (T&Cs apply) to support ocean protection on your behalf (just remember to quote 'PROJ1' when you switch!).

As concerns about climate change increase, the inter-relationship between the ocean and climate change must be recognised, understood, and incorporated into climate change policies. Human emissions of greenhouse gases threaten coastal and marine ecosystems through sea-level rise, acidification, and changes in weather patterns and water temperatures.

One of the overall solutions to climate change is to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. This will require action at international, national, local and community levels, around the world..

Follow the 10 Tips for Divers to Protect the Ocean Planet to help the ocean become more resilient in the face of our changing climate and switch to Ecotricity today to reduce your carbon footprint. Ecotricity will donate towards our campaigns and projects as well as invest in building new sources of renewable energy for a brighter and greener future for us and our ocean planet.

For more information on how to support ocean conservation, visit www.projectaware.org.

Visit us on
stand 440
at DIVE 2015


**THE
UNDERWATER CENTRE**
F O R T W I L L I A M

COMMERCIAL DIVING

Get job satisfaction, flexibility, lucrative earnings and worldwide travel. Take your diving to the next level with training from the commercial diving experts.

Contact our Student Advisors to find out more:

+44 (0) 1397 703786, fortwilliam@theunderwatercentre.com

www.theunderwatercentre.com or scan the QR code to find out more.



WESTFIELD

SUB AQUA & MARINE INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

Don't get left on the shore

NOT all Travel Insurance is developed with the Diver and Diving in mind!

Read the exclusions... you'll be surprised! ...we were!

**OUR POLICY HAS BEEN ARRANGED
FOR YOU AND YOUR SPORT!**

Comprehensive Travel Insurance with
Savings of up to 50%*



The Sub Aqua Association choose us for our Insurance expertise!

Insurance also Available for:

DIVING EQUIPMENT, BOAT, COMPRESSOR and PERSONAL ACCIDENT



For an instant quote phone 'your insurance buddy'
on 01483 237827 or visit www.divinginsuranceuk.com

*on our standard premiums for your wife/husband if included on your policy!
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

PRIORITY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM



Archant Ltd, FREEPOST LE6423,
Leicester, LE87 9BY, UK

YOUR DETAILS (mandatory to complete)

Mr/Mrs/Ms	First name	Surname
Address		
Postcode		
Telephone	Mobile	
Email*		

*Please enter this information so that we can keep you up-to-date with important information about your subscription and exclusive offers that we think you'll enjoy. You can unsubscribe from these messages at any time.

GIFT RECIPIENT DETAILS (if giving as a gift)

Mr/Mrs/Ms	First name	Surname
Address		
Postcode		

SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

For two or more subscriptions, SAVING an extra £5, please order online or call (details on opposite page)

SPECIAL INTEREST	Direct Debit every 6 months		Direct Debit annually		Credit/debit card or cheque		DELIVERED TO:	
	Myself	Recipient	Myself	Recipient	Myself	Recipient	Myself	Recipient
Published 12 times a year:								
Sport Diver	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
FRANCE Magazine	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
French Property News	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
EQ Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Canal Boat	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Your Chickens	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sporting Shooter	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rifle Shooter	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Published 13 times a year:								
Living France	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pilot	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Country Smallholding	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Air Gunner	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Airgun World	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

REGIONAL	Direct Debit every 6 months		Direct Debit annually		Credit/debit card or cheque		DELIVERED TO:	
	Myself	Recipient	Myself	Recipient	Myself	Recipient	Myself	Recipient
Published 12 times a year:								
Berkshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Buckinghamshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cheshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cornwall Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Derbyshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dorset Magazine	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Essex Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hampshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hertfordshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Kent Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lancashire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Let's Talk	N/A	☐ £16.00	☐ £18.00	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
EDP Norfolk	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Somerset Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
EADT Suffolk	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Surrey Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sussex Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Yorkshire Life	☐ £10.99	☐ £21.99	☐ £26.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Published 13 times a year:								
Cotswold Life	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Devon Life	☐ £11.99	☐ £23.99	☐ £28.99	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

PAYMENT METHOD:

1. DIRECT DEBIT Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Service User Number	4 1 5 2 6 6	Reference (office use only)	
---------------------	-------------	-----------------------------	--

☐ Please start a subscription(s) by Direct Debit to the magazine as indicated above

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society branch

To the manager (Bank name)

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Branch sort code

Bank/Building Society number

INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY: Please pay Archant Community Media Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction, subject to safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that the instruction may remain with Archant Community Media Ltd and if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank or Building Society.

Signature

Date

YOU MAY CANCEL THE DIRECT DEBIT AT ANY TIME AFTER THE FIRST PAYMENT IS TAKEN. Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are ordering more than one Direct Debit subscription they will be taken as a separate Direct Debit payment for each subscription

2. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR CHEQUE

☐ Please find enclosed a cheque made payable to Archant Community Media Ltd for £

☐ Please debit my credit/debit card the sum of £

Start Date

Expiry Date

Issue No (Mastro only)

Signature

Date

Archant Community Media Ltd, the publishers, would like to keep in touch, from acknowledging receipt of your order efficiently to sending you details of exclusive offers. Please tick here if you would rather not hear from us by post or phone. We've teamed up with some great partners who would like to contact you occasionally but if you would prefer not to receive these messages tick here for post and phone. If you'd like to hear from them by email tick here or SMS tick here.

Choose from over 30 magazines

Visit subscriptionsave.co.uk/sdxmas to see the full range



SAVE £5
when you order two subscriptions



Great reasons to subscribe

- ★ SAVE 56% by Direct Debit - from just £10.99 every six months
- ★ Or choose credit/debit card for just £26.99 for 12 issues and SAVE 46%
- ★ Receive a gift card with every order for you to give at Christmas



T&Cs: Gift subscriptions start with the first issue published in 2016. Your gift card will be sent to you once the order has been processed, for you to give on Christmas day. Order two or more subscriptions and save £2.50 off each subscription. We must receive your order by 05/12/15 to guarantee you will receive your gift card before Christmas. Personal orders will start with the next available issue, unless stated otherwise. FREE UK delivery. Direct Debit is a UK only offer. Please call +44 (0)1858 438840 for overseas delivery rates. Offer ends 31/12/15.

The perfect gift

from just **£10.99**

Treat a loved one this Christmas to a subscription. Each issue is delivered to their door – a reminder of your generosity every month!



EASY WAYS TO ORDER

www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/sdxmas
0844 848 4211 quoting CSDXS15A

Lines are open 8am - 9.30pm Mon to Fri, 8am - 4pm Sat. BT calls to 0844 cost no more than 5p/min plus a 15p call set up fee, calls from mobiles usually cost more.



GETTING THE **BLUES** IN CORNWALL

JEREMY CUFF braves bouts of seasickness in pursuit of the elusive blue shark off the Southwest coast of the UK

Photographs by JEREMY CUFF / WWW.JA-UNIVERSE.COM



Cage diving with sharks is normally associated with the great white encounters in South Africa, South Australia or Guadalupe in Mexico, or perhaps the Scuba Zoo dives that used to happen on the Great Barrier Reef, attracting mostly reef sharks. But to some people's surprise, you can also do it here in the UK, with the target species being blue sharks...

I'd been aware of the blue shark encounters that were possible off the coast of Cornwall for some time, so last December, when I was planning a few things for the New Year, the Cornish blues bubbled to the top of my 'to do' list.

Options for this type of trip are very limited due to the niche nature of the subject matter and the relatively small time window in which the sharks can be reliably seen. I chose to go for the Atlantic Divers' trip (www.atlanticdiver.co.uk), which runs out of the Southwest surf capital and summer party town of Newquay. It's run by Chris and Annabelle Lowe, a very friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable couple who offer a limited number of blue shark cage-diving trips each season from late-June through to August.

During the days prior to the drive down to Cornwall, I regularly checked the weather forecast, which looked fine for the day of the trip itself. However, the winds were quite high on the days leading up to it, so I hoped the conditions would have settled enough to allow the trip to go ahead. After a call from Chris and Annabelle to confirm my attendance and check any requirements for kit, I felt fortunate that it would go ahead as planned, as I later learned that the previous day's trip had been cancelled due to the winds.

The format for the day was to meet at Newquay's diminutive harbour at 9am to load the gear into the boat, followed by a briefing in a nearby classroom where Chris and Annabelle described the day's activities, as well as wider issues of marine and shark conservation, especially the work of The Shark Trust, with whom they enjoy an association. We learned, for example, that there are more than 30 species of shark known to inhabit UK waters.



BASKING SHARK
SCOTLAND

HEBRIDES WILDLIFE & DIVING EXPEDITIONS



baskingshark
scotland.co.uk
www.diveobanandargyll.com



Winter Sun Dive Holidays in Gran Canaria



A FREE GIFT
WITH EVERY
PADI COURSE

ALL YEAR
ROUND DIVING
AVAILABLE

www.divinggrancanaria.com

Go**PRO**

The Maldives



Turn your passion into a career in paradise

Become a PADI Instructor with a Platinum Course Director

For more information contact
dive.cd@gmail.com



Preparing the chum



With all the loading, formalities and briefings done, we set off under clear blue skies, heading out to sea in the residual swell from the previous day's high winds. We would keep going until the land was a distant strip on the horizon, to a general area where the sharks have been known from past experience, in around 60m of water.

The blue shark is a species of the open water and deep reefs, with a global distribution that covers tropical, sub-tropical and temperate zones. They are known to cover great distances, and are thought to utilise currents such as the Gulf Stream to reach waters around the UK and Europe.

Appearance-wise, they are very sleek and clearly suited to their pelagic lifestyle, where they are known to hunt small fish and cephalopods (especially squid), though they are also thought to feed on bottom-dwelling species on occasions. Their colouration on the back and flanks, though always blue as their name suggests, can differ markedly between individuals; from a blue-tinged grey to a very deep blue, which contrasts with a white underside. In terms of size, they can attain an impressive four metres in length, though most specimens encountered will be significantly smaller than this.

It would be almost impossible to encounter blue sharks without something to attract them in, so Chris uses chum made up of herring, which creates a slick that leads to the boat, which he deploys on the approach to his chosen area.

Once we've arrived and the engine is switched off, the cage is lowered into the water and we wait, drifting with the current. Nothing is guaranteed in the ocean, and it's certainly possible to spend all day in seemingly perfect conditions without any sightings whatsoever. I hoped for at least a few sightings from the cage, but would we get any close encounters?

As the chum spreads out to cover a wide area, there has to be some way of making the boat and the area immediately around the cage the focal point of the shark's investigations, so that they can be easily seen. Chris does this by filling a holed plastic bottle with herring and attaching it to a rope, which is allowed to float 10 or 15 metres from the boat. Any shark that investigates it can usually be seen breaking the surface, which alerts everyone to its presence. Then, with divers in the cage, Chris can slowly draw the bottle towards the boat and cage, hopefully bringing the shark with it and into clear view.



"After probably a couple of hours of waiting, a fin and tail broke the surface next to the plastic bottle; it was a blue shark, our first of the day"

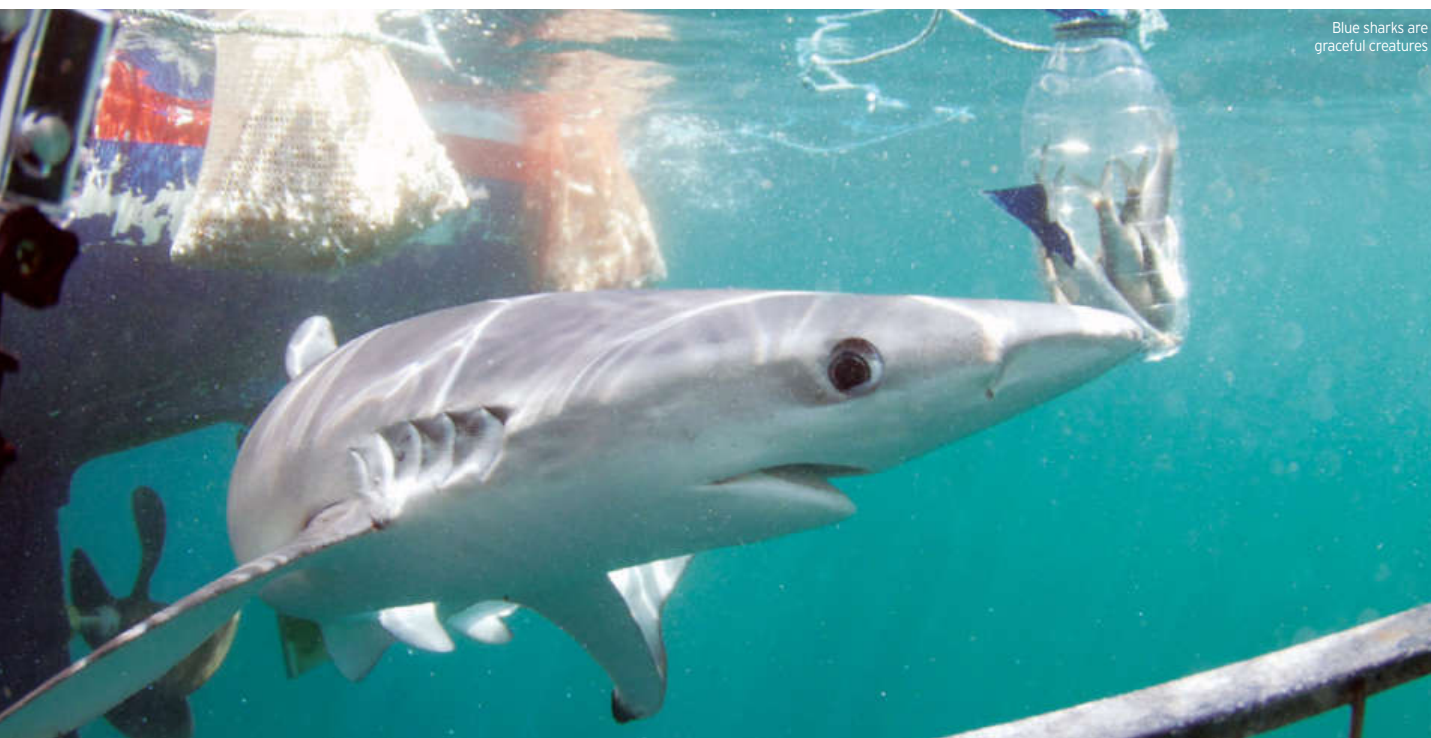
Divers looking suitably happy after a shark dive



The cage itself is small, but with enough room for two divers to comfortably fit in while allowing a bit of room to move and look around. It's suspended by floats to keep it buoyant, with a convenient viewing slit beneath the waterline. While not in use, it is stowed at the rear of the vessel from where it's lowered and retrieved from the water using a winch. Once in the water, it's moved to the side of the boat from where it is accessed. Initially, it looks a bit tricky to get in and out of, but it's not as difficult as it looks.

Before anyone climbed into the cage, Chris explained a few more useful tips and facts, such as suppressing the urge to shout, whoop, celebrate and talk loudly if a shark appears, which along with clunking footsteps and excessive splashing, is thought to frighten them. Another clue to their presence can be unsettled seabirds, such as the fulmars that will often bob around close to the cage and boat hoping for titbits of food. He also told us that the 'boat record' was seven blue sharks at one time and that it's not impossible that something very rare and big could turn up, such as a porbeagle, mako or thresher Shark, as they are known to visit the general area.

After probably a couple of hours of waiting, a fin and tail broke the surface next to the plastic bottle; it was a blue shark, our first of the day. A wave of excitement swept across the boat as the pairs of cage divers prepared to get in. To avoid any grumbles among the participants, Chris and Annabelle do a 'number draw' to determine who gets in first. This seemed to work well to get things started, with a general relaxation of the running order naturally occurring as the day progressed, as some divers opted to sit it out and watch from the deck, as some of the sharks slowly circled the boat.



The first pair of divers to get in the water had a very good encounter with the first shark, which briefly granted some close passes of the cage. They came out beaming, as others hurriedly prepared for their turn. During my first visit to the cage, I saw the shark but the views were fleeting and not conducive to any photography, which was a very difficult challenge in the buoyant cage that bobbed around in the swell. I also vowed to take my weight belt for the next 'immersions', as my 7mm wetsuit made it difficult to remain underwater and able to fully utilise the viewing slit.

Over the day, we certainly had four sharks around the boat, and possibly five. Chris said they can sometimes be bold, and I was fortunate enough to enjoy close encounters, with one specimen passing close to the cage on several occasions, and another that actually investigated us by literally poking its snout into the viewing slit while we were inside. Later, the same shark spent considerable time checking out the underside of the boat and the chum bag, which Chris would sometimes dangle over the side in addition to the floating herring-filled plastic bottle.

Strictly speaking, this isn't of course scuba diving in the true sense of the word (as the only supplied air is from a snorkel!), but it's certainly one that can only appeal to people who like the sea, and the life that lives in it. Though this trip won't go ahead if the conditions are too rough, the swell from the previous day's winds turned out to be somewhat puke inducing, as several of the shark snorkelers wrestled with bouts of seasickness during the day, including quite unusually myself. The remedy is to take sea sickness tablets before setting out - you've got nothing to lose and everything to gain by doing so.

If the blue sharks aren't enough or they don't put in an appearance, this trip is also good for other wildlife sightings; we were lucky to spot a couple of sunfish at the surface, and for 'twitchers', you can expect to see several seabird species, such as fulmars, shearwaters, guillemots, storm petrels and gannets. There's also the possibility of basking sharks, dolphins, porpoises and even the odd passing seal.

For fans of wildlife and wilderness, it's great to think that you can do this kind of thing here in the UK. Like the venomous adder on land, it's good to know that there's still edgy and wild creatures left in and around the UK for those who are prepared to seek them out. Overall, we had a great day, coming face to face with this fantastic species of shark. It was very worthwhile. ■

"Though this trip won't go ahead if the conditions are too rough, the swell from the previous day's winds turned out to be somewhat puke-inducing, as several of the shark snorkelers wrestled with bouts of seasickness during the day, including quite unusually myself"



Jeremy had plenty of shark action

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Atlantic Divers - Departs from the old historic Newquay Harbour at approximately 9am and the trip lasts about eight hours, but if a shark comes along late in the day and tide allows, the boat will stay longer, so allow for this when parking. Wear warm clothing, as even in the summer it can get chilly out on the boat. Bring packed lunch and something to drink, wetsuit and mask if you prefer your own, and seasickness tablets should you need them, as the boat does not return to shore.

Wetsuit, mask, snorkel and diving boots are provided if required. Instruction and shark tuition, shark literature, hot drinks and chocolate biscuits are included in the price of £105 per person.

Voted Best Dive Centre in the World!

Red Sea

elite *diving*



Elite Diving is fast becoming
Sharm El Sheikh's first choice dive centre.

Voted Best Dive Centre in the Red Sea for
3 consecutive years and Best in the World
2013 & 2014 by Sport Diver Readers.

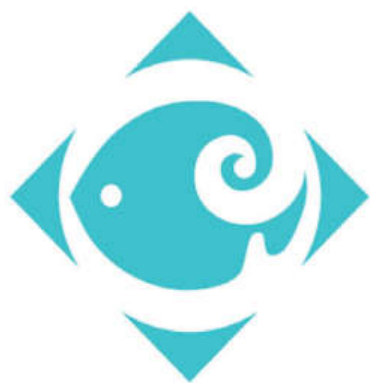
- British Owner Managers
- Learn to Dive with PADI or BSAC
- Speciality Courses
- Day Boat Diving in Sharm El Sheikh
- Free Nitrox for Nitrox Card Holders
- Tec Courses



For more information visit:
www.elite-diving.com

info@elite-diving.com





wakatobi

uncovered

AMBUSH ARTISTS

A revealing look at some of the stealthy ambush predators that inhabit Wakatobi's reefs

Photographs by Walt Stearns

When you're drifting along a sun-spangled coral slope at tropical destinations such as Wakatobi, everything may seem serene and relaxing. But in reality, the reefs are teeming with ruthless predators who lie hidden nearby, just waiting to claim their next victim. Some conceal themselves in crevices or bury themselves in debris and strike from cover, while others take on elaborate disguises that allow them to blend into the background and hide in plain sight.

One such predator found across the central Indo-Pacific is the crocodilefish. With its elongated body, flattened head and mottled green/gray coloration, it certainly resembles its namesake reptile. But it's not just looks that these two ambush predators have in common. Just as a croc will lie hidden and still as a log until an antelope wanders up to the watering hole, so too will the crocodilefish blend into its surroundings and remain motionless for long periods of time. Should a potential meal swim within range, the crocodilefish will lunge forward with a powerful flick of its tail, engulfing the unwitting victim and swallowing it whole. These fish can alter the intensity of their coloration to match their surroundings, and they have one more evolutionary trick that aids concealment: frilly growths partially cover their eyes, breaking up the telltale gleam that might otherwise warn a wary victim.

Stonefish and scorpionfish also rely on camouflage as they wait for a meal to come within range. These are among the most toxic fish in the sea, but they don't use their poisons to subdue prey. Instead, they

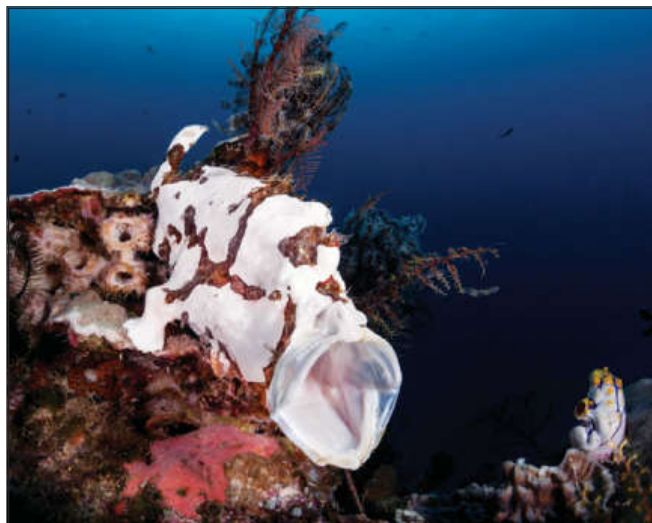
reserve these toxic cocktails for would-be attackers - or hapless humans who make inadvertent contact with these hard-to-see hunters. Scorpionfish generate an adaptive camouflage that allows them to blend into their surroundings. They strike quickly, but with a limited range. To increase the chances of success, the scorpionfish combine lunges with suction, using a rapid expansion of their large jaws to pull the meal toward them. Scorpionfish are capable of inhaling fish up to half their

own size. The stonefish takes adaptive camouflage to a whole new level, morphing its body into a rounded shape that resembles a rock or lump of silt-covered coral debris. These fish are so sedentary that they may grow a coat of algae and parasites. This can aid in their camouflage, and sometimes helps lure in herbivorous prey. But when the coating gets too thick, they shed their outer skin and start over. Like the scorpionfish, stonefish make up for limited strike ranges - usually less than a quarter body length - by using a very pronounced vacuum effect, explosively expanding their mouths in as little as 15 milliseconds. Stonefish have an



additional tactic in their arsenal. They may bury themselves in sand or muck bottoms, leaving only their beady eyes exposed as they wait for an unsuspecting meal to swim by.

The stargazer family takes burrowing to the ultimate level. Swim across a patch of seemingly innocuous sand bottom at a tropical destination such as Wakatobi, and look for a pair of eyes protruding from the sand or muck. These likely belong to a stargazer. If this fish were out in the open, you'd note the bulging bulldog-like eyes are set into a large head, which tapers to a disproportionately small body. Adding to

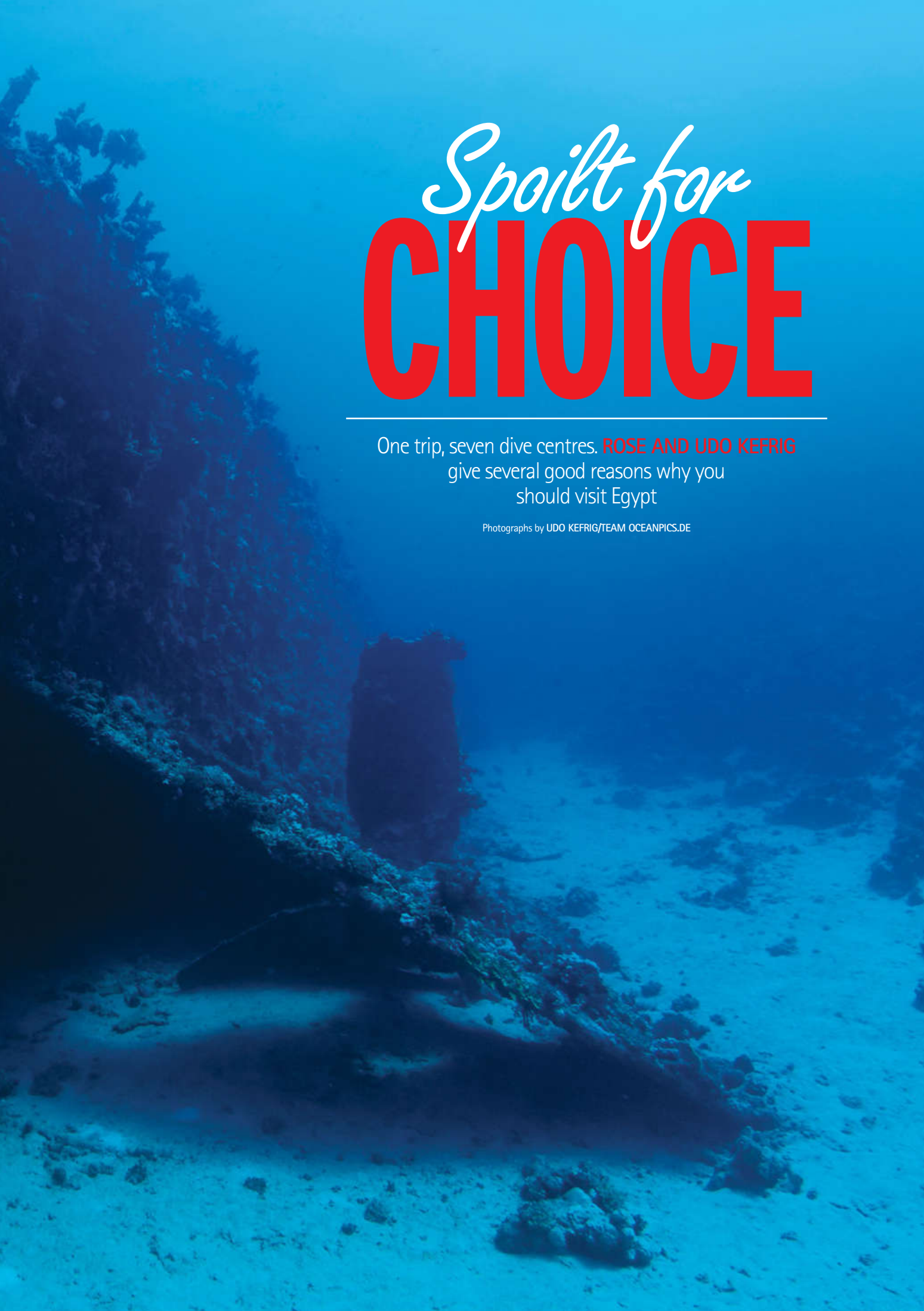


the stargazer's ghoulish appearance is a downturned mouth fitted with a jagged row of teeth. In some cases, there might also be a worm-like lure growing from the mouth - the better to lure unsuspecting prey. Any palatable morsel that comes within range of this spooky carnivore will have little chance of escape once the stargazer bursts forth in an upward attack. Several types of stargazers found at Wakatobi pack an additional surprise - an electric shock. Specialised muscles in the stargazer's head can generate electrical charges of up to 50 volts, which confuse the victim and buy the stargazer that extra few milliseconds needed to complete the kill.

The frogfish is nature's ultimate couch potato, as they rarely swim. And most times when they do move, it is in an ungainly fashion walking across the bottom on their stumpy leg-like fins. Given their limited mobility, frogfish would stand very little chance of chasing down a meal, so they wait for it. But simply waiting for something to swim past is not good enough. Instead, a frogfish will lure dinner their way,

using the same trick fishermen the world over do. To present the worm, you need a fishing pole. For the frogfish, that pole is an appendage known as the illicium, located on the frogfish's forehead. On the end of this pole is the lure, known as the esca, which can resemble a worm, shrimp or some other marine delectable. The ruse might seem obvious, were it not for the fact that frogfish are among nature's most perfect camouflage artists. Every aspect of their body can adapt to match their surroundings and it can take a keen eye to spot one. Then again, Wakatobi's dive guides are experts at pointing out the location of these stealthy anglers. Observing an ambush predator at work takes both patience and vigilance. For long periods of time, nothing happens. Then, in less than a tenth of the time it takes to blink your eyes, the attack comes. It's a literal case of blink and you'll miss it. But don't worry, you can catch a repeat performance, as the ongoing drama of the sneak attack plays out uncounted times each day. It's just one more element in the ongoing show on Wakatobi's reefs. ■



An underwater photograph of a coral reef. A diver is visible in the center, slightly to the right, swimming towards the left. The water is a deep blue, and the coral is dark and textured. The overall scene is serene and beautiful.

Spoilt for **CHOICE**

One trip, seven dive centres. **ROSE AND UDO KEFRIG**
give several good reasons why you
should visit Egypt

Photographs by UDO KEFRIG/TEAM OCEANPICS.DE

**Red
Sea**
more than
ever!

Marsa Alam

As good as it gets!

sinaidivers.com

Sharm el Sheikh

Marsa Alam

Dahab

Aqaba

Safaris

SINAI
DIVERS
DIVING CENTERS



© Nina Eschner

See us at
DIVE
2015
NEC, Birmingham
24/25 October



YOUR 360°
RED SEA
EXPERIENCE



Relax at 4* Camel Hotel



Become part of the Camel Tribe

"Before my stay at Camel I was only a certified diver. Their safety standards and its unique atmosphere turned me into a self-confident diver and a reliable buddy", Josh from London

HOT DEALS

7 nts Camel Hotel B&B with:

- 5 days diving **from € 340**
- PADI Advanced Course **from € 406**

More offers on our website!

FREE NITROX for all bookings

EXTRA 5% off your diving - quote code SD1115 | book before 30 Nov '15

See www.cameldive.com/special-offers for details. All offers have limited availability. Hotel offer is per person sharing.

info@cameldive.com
www.cameldive.com
facebook.com/cameldive.sharm





Boarding for another
dive day



The Thistlegorm is
alive with soft corals



Giannis D

It all began nearly 25 years ago when Volker Clausen opened his first Orca Dive Club in Hurghada. He was already a pioneer of the sport and it wasn't long before further dive centres opened, and not only in Egypt. The casual atmosphere, high quality service and excellent diving had divers flocking to exotic destinations like Mauritius, Bali, Cape Verde and Flores. Volker and his team constantly look at ways to improve their facilities and to make their customers happy. When we received a call from him inviting us to go diving, we jumped at the chance. However, there was a catch. We had to visit and dive at all seven Orca Dive Centres during a 14-day stay. The challenge was on! With our dive gear packed in a flash, it wasn't long before the plane touched down at Hurghada Airport and we were greeted by Volker himself. With a big grin on his face, he replied to our greeting: "Let's see if we can pull this off!"

PEACE AND SERENITY AT CORAL GARDEN

Our first stop was 25km south of Safage. Nestled within the grounds of the Coral Garden Resort are 39 rooms. Some apartments are in the main building, others are spacious bungalows overlooking Gassous Bay. It is very quiet. The location is fantastic. Directly on the 600-metre-long sandy beach is the dive centre. With an easy beach entry into the warm water, it offers great snorkelling opportunities, as well as access to an incredible house reef teeming with fish. Even the bar is situated on the beach - great for your 'sundowner'. Forget large crowds, your mobile phone, and your watch; this is Egypt with a chilled-out Caribbean flair! If you are seeking peace and quiet, this is the perfect dive spot. You can start your dive at any time directly from the beach. Dive sites range from beginner to boat dives.

We only had 48 hours to explore the riches of the underwater world at this site, so we dived right in to the house reef. Only a few metres in and the first reef blocks come into sight, and that's when the action starts - it's like being in a big aquarium. You can admire scorpionfish, octopus, coral catfish and cylinder anemones with transparent shrimps. Our dive continued toward the Northern Reef, which slopes down to 35m. It runs along the north side of the bay in terrace-like protrusions with occasional small ledges. The reef is known for its variety of corals, especially fan and table corals. Hiding in a crevice, a beautiful moray eel displays its open mouth, while another swims right by. Soon 94 minutes have passed and slowly we make our way back to the exit point.

Our evening meal is taken in the restaurant overlooking the bay. The atmosphere is quiet, no loud music, just friendly staff and simple, good food. The rest of the evening is spent around the beach bar chatting. It is a small, serene getaway for the discerning diver, but if you wish to be entertained, need childcare, all inclusive and chocolate massages, then check into the Coral Sun Beach Hotel, which is located only a short stroll up the beach and offers superb facilities for the whole family. Your dives are still taken at Orca.

One last breakfast and the rest of our time was spent throwing our dive gear back into suitcases and preparing to head for the next destination 342km away in Hamata...



Buggy at Breakers

ALL IN AT WADI LAHMY AZUR

Punctually at 1.15am, we were picked up and driven to Hamata. It was a long, four-and-a-half hour drive but the road was well constructed. At the all-inclusive Wadi Lahmy Azur hotel, we were welcomed with sweet, cold Karkade tea the moment we stepped through the door. The hotel has a private beach, and every room has a balcony or terrace. The first shock arrived at dinner. We casually strolled into the restaurant and felt grossly underdressed in shorts and T-shirts - there is a dress code for the hotel's bars, and the restaurants are smart casual.

Diving takes place at the house reef, or from two modern boats that visit 16 dive sites. The entry to the house reef is simple - walk down a jetty and then either jump in or walk down the ladder. A word of warning: it got a little crowded at times due to snorkelers and divers wishing to enter and exit. The large house reef is magnificent. From the moment you enter you are surrounded by fish. Our time is limited, but we manage to jump on the boat go to Sha'ab Claudio and Abu Galawa. It is fish soup heaven - schools of fish, Napoleon, caves to swim in and out of, as well as plenty of hard corals.

We headed north again toward Marsa Alam; our next stop for two nights was the Concorde Moreen Beach Hotel and Spa...

ONE FOR THE FAMILY

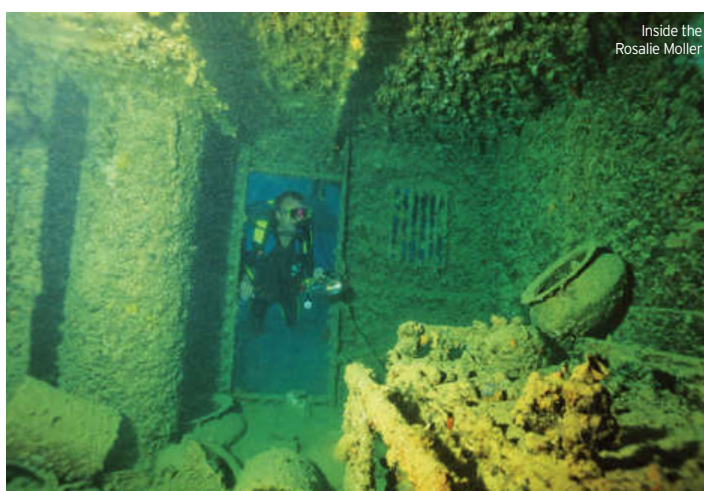
Another world! From the moment you step inside, this hotel envelopes you in wonderful service. Situated around 15 minutes from Marsa Alam, in the centre of Abu Dabour Bay, it has it all. A beautiful 800-metre sandy beach, spectacular panoramic views over the Red Sea coast, lush gardens equipped with four fabulous swimming pools... but we were only interested in diving! The dive centre is ideally located a few hundred metres from the beach and is an excellent place for house reef dives, and an ideal starting point for excursions by minibus to the dive sites around Marsa Alam, day trips with the dive boat to Elphinstone Reef, Sha'ab Samadai and Sha'ab Marsa Alam. One of the most-requested dive sites is Elphinstone. It is well known for encounters with oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks at the right time of year. The north plateau of this long, thin offshore reef is around 80 metres long and between ten to 25 metres wide. It is covered with colourful soft corals and teeming with life. Clouds of anthia, countless fusiliers, trevally and barracuda surround you.

This time we don't need to pack our suitcase to visit our fourth Orca Dive Club, which is situated only eight minutes transfer time from Marsa Alam Airport. The Orca Dive Club Tulip has been up and running since February 2010. It provides a wide range of interesting dives, ranging from beautiful house reef dives, trips to remote beaches in their minibus, or daily boat trips to various reefs and mini-liveaboard trips in Hamata. The Tulip Hotel is only five kilometres from the Moreen Beach and has a 750-metre-long jetty. Taking into account a 250-metre-long walk from the dive centre to the beach, it makes it a tiresome 1,000 metre journey, but fear not, you are taken by golf cart unless you are super fit and choose to walk! The hotel itself is of moderate standard and offers good, clean accommodation.

Next on our list was the unique watersports lifestyle hotel The Breakers Diving and Surfing lodge, situated on the beautiful Soma Bay peninsula...

DIVE AND KITE

It's service with a smile at this sporty and upbeat hotel. The choice is yours! Dive, kite, surf, sail, golf or spa? The Breakers Diving and Surfing Lodge offers deluxe kiting and diving facilities. It has a fantastic house reef that stretches from the east to the west of the peninsula and it is packed with diverse marine life from the smallest to the largest and has an abundance of corals. It is a delight for snorkelers and divers of all experience levels. A 420-metre jetty extends directly from the dive club to the

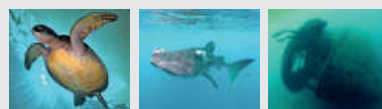


"On the north and south side you will find two long and slim plateaus that are covered in a vibrantly coloured carpet of soft corals, with awesome table corals dotted around"

We've just acquired a new property!



Tel: +201154055100
www.sinai-college.com | info@sinai-college.com



The Sinai College team are pleased to announce that they have recently acquired Anthias Divers in Namma Bay, the centre where it all began for us many years ago.

Situated in the heart of Namma Bay at the Hilton Fayrouz hotel, Anthias Divers boasts a stunning house reef accessible from the beach directly in front of the centre, ideal training area and perfect location for relaxed diving that can be enjoyed by all levels of diver.

The two centres will run hand in hand covering the whole area of Sharm el Sheikh, providing a local hub for our clients no matter where your hotel is located.

- Professional friendly service
- Family friendly ■ Group offers
- British managed
- Divemaster internships available
- Accommodation available



Hilton Farouz, Namma Bay, Sharm El Sheikh.
Tel: 00201001174400
Email: info@anthiasdivers.net

DISCOVERY

DIVE INTO THE BLUE ...
THE RED SEA IS WAITING FOR YOU



www.rixos.com
sharmelsheikh@rixos.com

RIXOS
SHARM EL SHEIKH

Nabq Bay, Sharm El Sheikh
South Sinai Sharm / EGYPT
T: +20 69 3710 210



Large turtle chilling on the seagrass

reef. Electric cars are available for carrying equipment and allowing divers effortless access to the reef. A large turquoise-blue lagoon lies at the front of the reef and provides sheltered waters ideal for training.

Our dive was scheduled at the Salem Express. The boats leave from the small private marina to whisk you off in spacious luxury to the many fascinating dive sites off Soma Bay. I had mixed feelings about this dive, given the huge loss of life when she sank. At the stern of the ship the two large propellers are intact and covered in coral. It is possible to swim under the stern from the keel to the rear deck. During the deepest part of the dive, at the seabed on the deck side, divers swim over the lifeboats before and under the two funnels. The ship's bridge is a semicircular structure raised from the main deck.

We only had one night left and enjoyed the rest of the evening at the hotel. The food was divine and the atmosphere relaxed. Our list was shrinking, and there were only two dive centres left...

TECHNICAL DIVING AT THE VILLAGE

This location is a little jewel which should really be kept a secret. The Orca Dive Club in Safaga was established in 1995. Now it has undergone refurbishment and the rooms are lovingly decorated. A new restaurant is being built and more is planned for the future. The Orca Village is situated adjacent to the Orca Dive Club Safaga. The bungalows are located around a private, sheltered sandy beach with all necessary amenities. The Village is an ideal choice for divers and dive clubs and for divers with a disability. With its own private jetty directly next to the centre and excellent dive sites in the bay offering calm moorings for the boats, it has become loved by all who visit, allowing you to enjoy a relaxed diving experience, though it also has one of the best-equipped tech facilities in the Red Sea as well.

One dive not to be missed is possibly the best dive site in Safaga: Abu Kafan. The name roughly translates to 'Father of the Abyss', a fitting description for this reef. The southerly lying reef grows out to depths in excess of 600m to rise just below the surface. On the north and south side you will find two long and slim plateaus that are covered in a vibrantly coloured carpet of soft corals, with awesome table corals dotted around.

The north side is best dived in the form of a drift. After jumping into the water you can descend on to the plateau at 25m. Moving in a north easterly direction you arrive at the eastern drop-off, with its majestic fan corals. Frequent encounters with barracuda, turtles, tuna and reef sharks, plus the occasional hammerhead, make this dive one not to be missed.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and we headed to our next and last destination - El Gouna...

LUXURIOUS EL GOUNA

El Gouna was built by Egyptian billionaire Samih Sawiris and is set on a cluster of islands surrounded by turquoise blue lagoons, with the mountains on one side and the crystal clear waters of the Red Sea on the other. It quickly developed into a major tourist attraction with its very own style and atmosphere. People often refer to it as the 'Venice of the Red Sea'. This 'city' has everything - shops, restaurants, patisserie, butcher, a church, a mosque, a school, a hospital, a university and a museum, but you can get to any corner of the place by a small shuttle bus, or boat. There is no traffic. Surrounding the beautiful Abu Tig Marina are designer shops, exclusive restaurants, hotels, a beach and, of course, the dive centres. The Orca Dive Club El Gouna is situated within the Turtles Inn, directly at the Abu Tig Marina. The hotel is basic but comfortable. The location is only a short stroll from the dive boats. Of course, guests staying in other hotels are picked up and dropped off by a complimentary shuttle service.

We decided to dive the Rosalie Moller, one of the Red Sea's best wreck dives. She lies at a depth of 50m on a sandy, muddy bottom with a Titanic-like bow. Viewed from the front she looks like a ghost ship, ready to rise from the deep. The foremast boasts a magnificent crow's nest at 22m and is overgrown with soft and hard corals. Take a look out in the blue, where barracuda and mackerel pursue their course.

We had done it! It was a perfect ending to an incredible challenge to visit all the Orca Dive Centres. Divers are spoilt for choice - it's up to you to choose which Orca is for you. www.orca-diveclubs.com



Enjoying a Bedouin dinner

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW EGYPT



GETTING THERE

There are direct flights from London to both Marsa Alam and Hurghada. The transfer from the airport depends on your choice of hotel destination.

WHEN TO GO

Egypt is a year-round travel destination.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All visitors must have a valid passport with at least six months left on it. A visa can be obtained at the airport on arrival for a fee of US\$25.

CURRENCY

Egyptian Pound (£1 = LE12.05).

WHERE TO EAT AND MEET

Meals are taken at the hotel of your choice, either all-inclusive or half-board. El Gouna has many dining facilities. Insider tip - don't miss a burger at Le Garage.

VERDICT

The Orca Dive Clubs and mentioned hotels are a perfect getaway for the discerning traveller and diver.

RED SEA DIVING

FREE Buddy Diving • FREE Group Places
Liveboards – Great Range, Great Value!

- LIVEBOARDS
- HURGHADA
- EL GOUNA
- SAFAGA
- SOMA BAY
- EL QUSEIR
- MARSA ALAM
- HAMATA
- SHARM
- DAHAB
- NUWEIBA & MORE



© Photoshot

Regaldive
The Diving Holiday Specialists

01353 659999
www.regaldive.co.uk



dive
holiday
designers

egypt
Live the Magic

*The Red Sea
Dive Specialists*

Red Sea Diving Holidays Designed for You
Sharm el Sheikh • Hurghada • El Gouna
Soma Bay • El Quseir
Marsa Alam • Liveboards

Call our specialist Dive Holiday Designers on
Tel: 020 3384 0024 or visit our website:

www.diveholidaydesigners.com



Mistral



Red Sea | Wrecks & Reefs

Whirlwind



Red Sea | Wrecks & Reefs

Cyclone



Red Sea | Get Wrecked

Hurricane



Red Sea | Simply The Best

See us at
DIVE
2015
NEC, Birmingham
24/25 October

egypt
Live the Magic

0800 072 8221

dive@scubatravel.com

www.scubatravel.com

LETTERS

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

The author of our star letter will win a £50 voucher to spend on Miflex Hoses and associated products.

So what are you waiting for? Email us.

letters@sportdiver.co.uk

SPONSORED BY



STAR LETTER

Dreamy Dahab

I have just come back from my first ever trip to Dahab. What a wonderful place for a week of diving.

I've been to the Red Sea a few times - at least half a dozen actually - but have always stayed in Sharm el Sheikh. What can I say? I'm a creature of comfort! Anyway, as much as I loved my trips out to Sharm (and the two dive centres that I alternated between) I felt it was time for a change. But, like I said, I'm a creature of comfort so I didn't fancy changing things up too much!

So, once again, I flew in to Sharm el Sheikh Airport, only this time I transferred a couple of hours north to the lovely Dahab. Although I was staying in one of the larger hotels, what struck me was how much smaller Dahab was compared with its internationally-renowned neighbour to the south. It's still a decent size, obviously - it has plenty of bars and restaurants - but it just oozes a little more charm. Add to this some excellent diving - some of the best, most expansive reefs I have ever seen - and you have yourself one hell of a dive destination!

My reason for writing, I guess, is to encourage more people to give Dahab a go. It's a cool place and well worth divers' attentions.

Jo Stamp, via email



OMNISWIVEL INTERNATIONAL

For more information, or to view the full range of Omniswivel products visit
www.Omniswivel.co.uk
www.miflexhoseshop.co.uk



Don't stop now!

Every year I am left dumbfounded by the disappearance of divers from local sites (and, presumably, across the rest of the UK) when autumn starts to set in and the rains come. Come on people! While it means quieter sites for me, I would much rather see folk putting up with a little rain and getting stuck in still - you're gonna get wet anyway!

The most frustrating part is that it is arguably the best time of year to dive in the UK - yes, it can be wet topside, but it's generally not that cold and - and this is the most important bit - the water temperature is about as warm as its going to get all year having basked in the occasional sunshine we enjoyed over the summer!

So stop being wimps you lot and get back out there!

Trevor Coombes, via email

Little duuude!

I've been diving for about ten years, but since my son was born six years ago the hobby has been put on the back-burner. This year my wife and I, who is also a diver (but really only because I am), decided to take the little one to Egypt. We figured he could hang with one of us by the pool every morning while the other went diving. Based in Marsa Alam, where our resort had some excellent house reef diving, this plan went smoothly and we were all having a great time. Then the option to head to a site called Abu Dabbab came up and both my wife and I wanted to go. No problem, the little man can snorkel! Abu Dabbab is famous for its sea turtles and, sure enough, we saw a couple of these in just a couple of metres munching on seagrass. All three of us snorkelled in the end. The little dude loved it!

Barry Boston-Woakes, via email

Walk first, run later

I've just come back from travelling around Southeast Asia for a year. A qualified diver before I went out, I am now totally hooked and got plenty of underwater time in while I was away. Regardless of where I was diving, I found I would always encounter one or two divers 'running before they could walk'. Doesn't quite work when talking about life underwater I know! But anyway... I'm talking about underwater photographers. I'd watch in amazement as divers clattered into reefs, or chased fish, or held a camera in one hand and dump valve in the other... It's dangerous. While these things are so much more affordable now, and it's a natural thing to want to photograph what you see underwater to show your friends back home, a lot of divers just aren't ready for it. Get your proficiency right first, then expand your skill set.

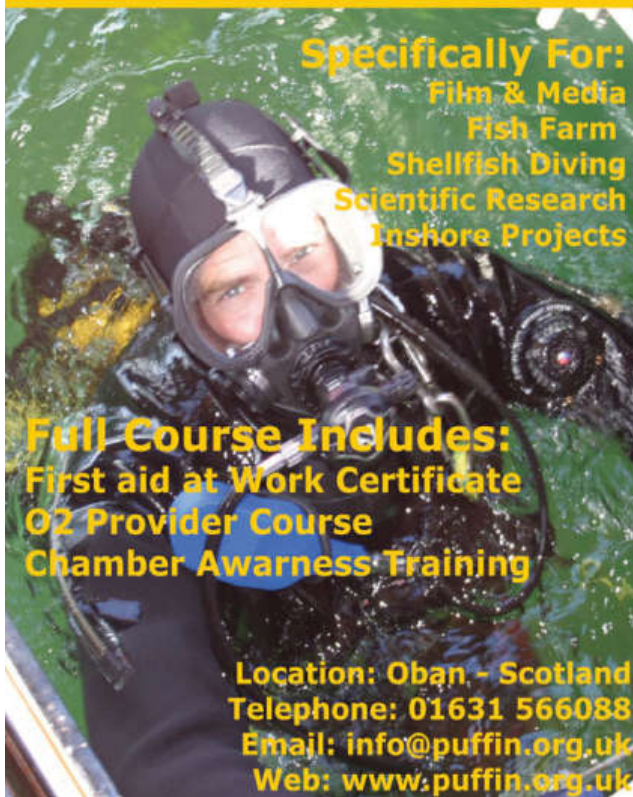
Zack Pearce, via email



**Commercial Course
HSE Scuba**

**Courses every month
Fast Track Options available
Prior Experience Discount**

unrivalled...



Specifically For:
Film & Media
Fish Farm
Shellfish Diving
Scientific Research
Inshore Projects

Full Course Includes:
First aid at Work Certificate
O2 Provider Course
Chamber Awareness Training

**Location: Oban - Scotland
Telephone: 01631 566088
Email: info@puffin.org.uk
Web: www.puffin.org.uk**

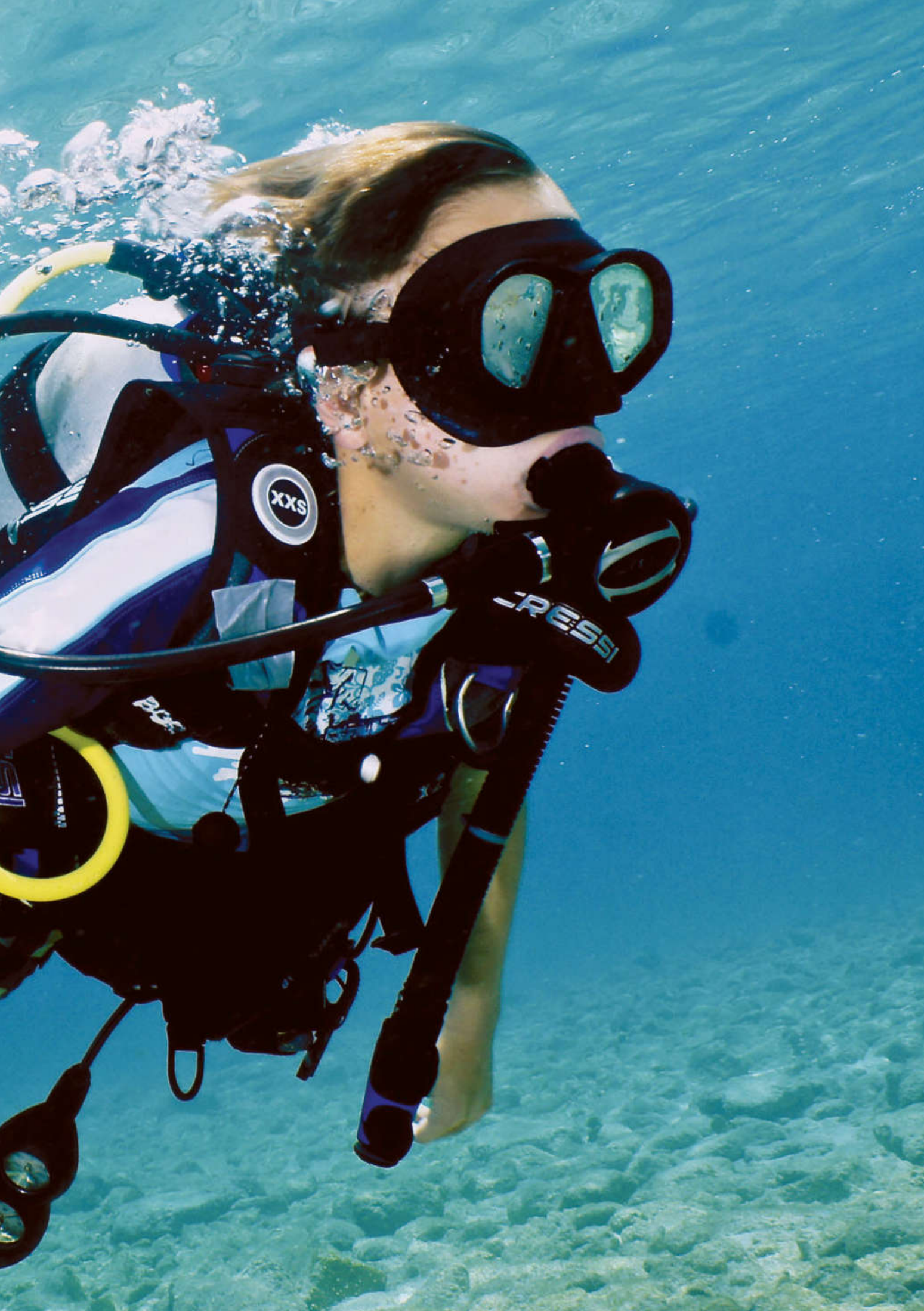
An underwater photograph showing the lower half of a diver. The diver is wearing purple and black fins and a blue and white checkered swimsuit. Bubbles are visible in the water. The title 'Caribbean Seal' is overlaid in large yellow and white text, with 'part one' in smaller white text below it.

Caribbean Seal

part one

Eight-year-old **LUKE EVANS** was on SEAL Aquamissions, so Mum and Dad got to tag along to the Kid's Sea Camp in Bonaire as well

Photographs by MARK EVANS



THE DARK WATER GALLERY LTD

By Nick Oneill Art



Dark water Gallery in Brighton's famous Lanes is the home of Nick Oneill Art. Featuring the Work of British Marine life artist Nick Oneill and other guest Artists the Dark Water Gallery is the first gallery dedicated to marine life art in the UK . The Gallery stocks Everything from huge original artwork to prints , sculptures , T-shirts , jewellery and gifts so there really is something for everyone . It is a truly unique place to visit in Brighton and well worth a visit to see Nick's famous life size shark paintings !



Nick is a British artist who specialises in contemporary marine and wildlife art .

Growing up among a family of divers, his passion for the sea and its creatures grew during holidays to destinations by the Red Sea, Caribbean Sea, Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Nick's first diving adventures took place at an early age, allowing him to experience first hand the vibrancy and amazing textures of the magnificent fish. Although he had been snorkeling for years already, learning to scuba dive at age 11 allowed Nick to experience the unique effects of light streaming through water and the changes in colours when in deep water.

Nick's experiences and artistic talent allowed him to develop a unique style of painting which combines traditional painting techniques and skills learnt during his years as a custom painter for the motorsport industry. Nick is a self taught artist and believes that this has helped him to create his own style of painting and stand out from the crowd . Nick paints a variety of marine and other wildlife , including life size sharks on his signature black canvas and new precious and base metal leaf covered boards .



“So, will I be really diving this time?” “Will there be sharks?” “How many other kids are going to be in the SEAL Team?” “Will we be in the sea?” “Will I see sharks?” “Will I get to night dive?”

I was getting a serious feeling of déjà vu as my eight-year-old son fired an endless barrage of questions at me. Was it really only three years ago when, as a pint-sized five-and-a-half year old, he was asking me many of the same queries before embarking on his SASY and snorkelling adventures at a Kid's Sea Camp in Grand Cayman?

Now in the middle of his eighth year, he'd moved up into the PADI SEAL Team category within the Kid's Sea Camp organisation, something he'd been counting down the days to since he first stuck his head underwater with a mask and snorkel on. Got to hand it to PADI, the pool-based SEAL Team is a fantastic introduction to diving for children aged eight to ten. Luke had completed his Bubblemaker just after his eighth birthday at the Blue Planet Aquarium (see the January 2015 issue of Sport Diver), but he couldn't wait to get stuck into the different Aquamissions offered as part of the SEAL Team experience. He'd be completing the initial five Aquamissions during his week at KSC, and once he'd notched up the ten Specialty Aquamissions after returning home, he would hold the title of Master SEAL Team Diver. Now I don't know about you, but I'd like to be a Master SEAL Team Diver - that sounds so much cooler and clandestine than adult certifications!



Luke checking over his equipment pre-dive

CHECK YOUR BUDDY

Our home for the week on Bonaire was Buddy Dive, a long-established resort with an excellent reputation and an ever-growing number of repeat guests. You only have to go down to the onsite dive centre and see staff members who have been there 11, 12, 13 years to know that you are somewhere special - employees, especially diving professionals, do not hang around one location unless it has a lot going for it.

Buddy Dive and Kid's Sea Camp have had a long relationship, and there are two separate week-long KSC events every year at the resort. Dive centre manager Augusto Montebrun and his dedicated team have got it



Mum and son on their first 'dive' together



Luke and fellow SEAL Timothy

nailed, effortlessly keeping hordes of children from five-years-old up into the teens happy and occupied, as well as marshalling masses of parents as they headed off shore and boat diving.

There was one group of SASY kids, Luke's SEAL Team, and then various pockets of teens doing PADI Junior Open Water Diver, PADI Adventure Dives, and even PADI Rescue Diver. Throw into the mix several adults who were also completing certification courses, and three boat-loads of qualified mum and dad divers leaving every morning, and you had a recipe for disaster, but it all ran like clockwork.

The parents had it easy during the day. Children of all ages were dropped off to their various staff members at 9am, and then weren't picked up again until the middle of the afternoon. We never even got to see them at lunch, as the youngsters all had their own dining room - with its own child-friendly menu - set-up in the breakfast area, while we adults relaxed in the pool bar/restaurant with our own meals.

Although afternoons offered the opportunity for some family time exploring the island or hanging out by the pool, there was still plenty of things going on during the rest of the day throughout the week, with a couple of interesting evening slideshow talks in the bar from the resident photo pro, a buffet barbecue with a mouth-watering selection of meats, and a gorgeous sunset cruise on a sailing vessel that ran the full length of Bonaire, to name just a few.

"Luke demonstrated some neat buoyancy control and a masterful trim, and happily pointed out parrotfish, blennies, butterflyfish and angelfish, though I thought his eyes might pop out of his head when a large tarpon swam right in front of him!"



"Now I don't know about you, but I'd like to be a Master SEAL Team Diver - that sounds so much cooler and clandestine than adult certifications!"



Bonaire Grenada Curacao Saba Aruba St. Martin

WE ARE THE SPECIALIST FOR THESE WONDERFUL CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

They include islands that have been voted:

- ★ BEST SHORE DIVING IN THE WORLD
- ★ BEST WRECK DIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN
- ★ BEST SNORKELLING
- ★ BEST FOR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY
- ★ BEST LEARNER DIVER'S DESTINATION

We tailor-make holidays for divers and non-divers. We are the preferred tour operator - with exclusive rates - for many resorts on these islands. Contact us for a holiday quotation...

www.caribbeanfuntravel.co.uk

info@caribbeanfuntravel.co.uk • 01604 88 29 29



Your Buddies proudly present: DOMINICA!

The island of world class diving and Pirates of the Caribbean, when will you Dive into Nature with us?

www.buddydivedominica.com

Buddy Dive



Bonaire & Dominica

Dive, Relax & Explore
Caribbean Club Bonaire



International reservations: +599 717 5080
www.buddydive.com/packages

dryrobe®

Get changed. Stay warm.



"Should be in every divers or outdoor enthusiasts kitbag." **SportDiver** Mark Evans - Editor



visit our online store at www.dryrobe.com



Luke enjoying a chocolate milkshake at the end of a full day



Kid's Sea Camp: A potted history

"It started more than 15 years ago. A few conversations, some notes on a napkin. I thought it should be a simple concept. If you have a family, love the ocean, diving, beaches, snorkelling, travel, and want to meet like-minded people, then you should have some place to go - and so Kid's Sea Camp was created," said Margo Peyton, founder of KSC.

From humble beginnings, Kid's Sea Camp has grown into a business spanning multiple countries, with Margo and her team running land-based trips to Roatan, Palau, Bonaire, Utila, Fiji, St Lucia, Yap and the Philippines, and even Galapagos on a liveaboard. Grenada, Turks and Caicos, Dominica and the Maldives are coming online in 2017.

www.familydivers.com

SEAL TEAM EIGHT

Thankfully, it wasn't just Luke who was near DEF-CON 5 with excitement - his seven fellow wannabe SEAL-Teamers were also bouncing off the walls when we deposited them with their instructors on the first morning. I have nothing but admiration for Elsy and her fellow PADI Pros who were tasked with shepherding eight ultra-hyper children into the pool and then getting them calm and focused enough to don mask, fins, BCD and regulator to venture underwater.

Elsy is a seasoned veteran when it came to handling kids, though, and so she and her fellow instructors would let Luke and his friends burn off some energy playing in the pool and snorkelling before moving on to the Aquamissions. Equally, they broke up the day with more play sessions in between the diving - after all, they were only children, and too much structured activity could turn them off diving, when we wanted them to become hopeless addicts like us!

Seeing the children setting up and checking their equipment, which comprised dinky BCDs mounted on five-litre cylinders, and regulators with small mouthpieces, brought a smile to the faces of all of the proud parents, and soon they were all confidently running through pre-dive checks like tiny veterans, under the watchful eyes of their instructors, who expertly kept them 'in the zone' when their minds started to wander.

In the water, throughout the five different Aquamissions, Luke and his friends repeatedly practiced water entry and exit; equalising; mask-clearing; regulator retrieval; swapping from snorkel to reg, and back again; and buoyancy control, including fin pivots. They were also given some tasters of the Specialty Aquamissions that become available after completing these initial five, such as taking photographs of a myriad variety of plastic divers and marine life with SeaLife Micro HD+ cameras.

CONCLUSION

It is safe to say that the SEAL Team was a major hit with all the children. The final 'graduation dive' in the sea alongside their parents was a serious highlight. Buddy Dive conveniently has a shallow reef from dock to house reef some 15-20 metres away - it is in essence a large swimming pool - and so the instructors took the SEAL Team in two at a time for their very first sea dive.

Luke demonstrated some neat buoyancy control and a masterful trim, and happily pointed out parrotfish, blennies, butterflyfish and angelfish, though I thought his eyes might pop out of his head when a large tarpon swam right in front of him!

"So what Aquamission did you enjoy the most?" I asked, as we tucked into hotdogs towards the end of the week. Gulping down a mouthful, he didn't miss a beat: "The Aquamission with the camera, definitely. I liked using the camera underwater, and I was pretty good with it. I am going to do your job when I get older..." ■

Next issue: It's not all about the kids! Mum and dad get to enjoy some quality shore and boat diving, while the children venture off to the donkey sanctuary and on an island tour.



Mum and Dad did get out for some proper diving as well

Sunset over Buddy Dive Resort





Buddy Dive
RESORT



Bonaire



NICK TROUBETZKOY'S
ANSE CHASTANET
ST. LUCIA



Kids Sea Camp

"GIVE THEM A
WEEK THEY WILL
REMEMBER FOREVER."

PRESENTING THE WORLD'S BEST FAMILY DIVE VACATIONS

YAP
PALAU
PHILIPPINES
BONAIRE
UTILA
AUSTRALIA
ST. LUCIA
FIJI
THE CAYMANS
GRENADA
ROATAN
GALAPAGOS
ST. VINCENT



FAMILY DIVE ADVENTURES

WWW.FAMILYDIVERS.COM 803-419-2556 EMAIL:DIVE@FAMILYDIVERS.COM

TALES FROM THE TANK

By MATT MARTIN, DIVE OFFICER, BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM



Blue Planet Aquarium exhibits one of Europe's largest collections of sharks - and you can come and dive with them! Please come and say 'hello' to our team of instructors on our stand in the PADI Village at the Dive 2015 show at the Birmingham NEC on 24/25 October. We will be there all weekend to talk to you about our diving packages on offer.

All our dive products will be on sale at a discounted rate. Certified divers, new divers and children can all dive in our Main Tank and Reef Section all year round, in warm sub-tropical waters. We always look forward to taking group and club bookings too, an amazing experience for new members of your clubs to come and experience walking in our exhibit.

We teach a PADI Distinctive Speciality course called Shark Awareness, counting towards Master Scuba Diver certification, and available to all certified divers for your further diving education - come and ask us for further details.

New for 2015 in the Main Tank will be a pair of one-metre juvenile blacknose female guitarfish, and the kids can come dive with us and see how our baby blacktips are doing in the Reef Section too. We expect more exciting additions to dive with over the winter months and into the New Year.

We look forward to meeting you at the Dive Show and taking you for a dive with our sharks in the near future! ■

BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM, Longlooms Road, Cheshire Oaks, Cheshire, CH65 9LF

Tel: 0151 357 8804 | Email: info@blueplanetaquarium.co.uk | Website: www.blueplanetaquarium.co.uk

Be the Change



to Protect the Ocean Planet

Take the Pledge:
projectaware.org/10Tips



© Project AWARE Foundation 2014

CHOOSE OTTER

Sat 28th Nov 9.30am
ends Sat 5th Dec 5pm

The choice of leading dive explorers worldwide

BIG SALE

I choose Otter because.....
 "...for exploration diving in extreme conditions and remote locations. I need 100% reliability and 100% performance. Otter suits give me this. I choose Otter to stay dry on every dive.
Martin Robson
 Cave Explorer and Technical Instructor Trainer

I choose Otter because.....
 "...they're lightweight and flexible yet tough and reliable-a combination for travelling and diving in my favourite tech diving locations. And they look GREAT!"
Vikki Batten
 PADI Director of Rebreather Technologies

Otter Britannic MK2 Telescopic Drysuit

- Neoprene neck warmer as standard
- Choice of pockets
- Double knee-protector pads
- New style telescopic body with neoprene strap slider
- Choice of dry socks and rock boots or Otter boots.
- Choice of Si-Tech or Apeks valves (standard or DIR position)
- Optional dryglove and quick replacement neck seal systems

Only £1340

Most Makes of Drysuits Repaired

RRP £150-£170

RRP £171-£50

Full Systems from £77

SI TECH

Made to Measure

Available

911 Wakefield Road, Dudley Hill, Bradford, BD4 7QA | sales@drysuits.co.uk | 01274-379480

20%
Online Discount

WHAT MAKES A COMPLETE DIVER?

DIVE MASTER INSURANCE

Simple, Secure and Affordable

BUY ONLINE

www.divemasterinsurance.com

or call us +44 (0) 1702 476902

Established 1987
 Dive Master Insurance.com

Dead man's fingers
adorn the wreckage



Conger eel



REACH FOR THE SKYE

MIKE CLARK returns to the Isle of Skye for the first time in 25 years, and is left awestruck by the diversity of the diving on offer

Photographs by **MIKE CLARK**

I had last visited Skye 25 years ago just after a massive storm had hit the UK. The diving was good in the sheltered sites that were available, but I always wished to go back and dive the exposed headlands. Well earlier this year, I managed to do just that! While the summer of 2015 has been poor and it rained for most of my stay, that did not matter to me. What did was that it was calm.

and underwater the vis was good, averaging around ten metres.

I stayed with Dive & Sea the Hebrides, based in Stein, in the north of the island. The first morning I jumped aboard their dive boat Elena C with three other pairs of divers. We headed out of Loch Bay and travelled up the Waternish Peninsular until we reached the dive site Waternish Point.

WATERNISH POINT

Dropping down, the kelp covering the cliff top disappeared as I dropped descended the wall. It drops for around 5-8m before ending in a bright sandy seafloor. This was punctuated by large boulders in slightly deeper water. Maximum depth was around 25m. The first thing I noted was a blue and gold male cuckoo wrasse and his harem of orange females. The

male came right up to my camera and had a good look, allowing me to get a nice picture. For me the dive was made already, but there was a wall to explore. Marine life was plentiful and I found large sunstars, vivid red sea scorpions and, underneath the boulders, just where skipper Gordon MacKay had predicted, was where I found the jewel anemones. It was a good start to the trip and as we were in a great location to see whales, Gordon took the boat out to have a look. No luck this time, but that would change later in the trip. Heading back in we stopped to explore a few seabird colonies before meandering over to Isay Island for dive two.

ISAY ISLAND SOUTH

Photographers, whatever you do, put on a macro lens for this site. Small decorator crabs roam the sea floor and hermit crabs live in partnership with cloak anemones. Nudibranchs were plentiful and after following a trail of dismembered shellfish pieces, I found an octopus hiding in a crevice. (Gordon's advice again). Max depth is around 21m and a wall falls down onto a sandy/rocky seafloor.

Day one and two cracking dives, but that was only the warm-up act.

SEAC
a wUNDERful world



AQUA  LUNG

**Look good AND see well
on all your dives
this year with
a prescription
diving mask**



**A range of 15 different diving masks and 25 swimming goggles for
people who wear glasses or contact lenses with delivery world-wide.**

www.prescription-diving-masks.co.uk • 0333 433 0813

Butterflies Healthcare, The Granary, Manor Park, Warkworth Banbury OX17 2AG UK



"Small fish were darting around and with the beautiful reef, crystal water and bright white sand, this dive was stunning and I would have happily dived it all week!"

CONGER CREVICE

This dive would have to be brilliant to live up to the morning dive at MacLeod's Maidens. Initially I didn't think it could. Vis was down to ten metres, but the site was fantastic and threw up some close encounters. At a depth of around 18m, a horizontal fault in the rock opens up a gap no greater than 50cm tall. This was Conger Crevice and it didn't take me long to find the first conger. I was last diver in the water and I had to wait a long time before the eel moved forward again and stuck its head in a spot where I could photograph it. After 30 minutes I had the shot and I moved along the crevice spotting lobster and conger alternately for over 200 metres before I had to ascend. I also spotted a small wrasse that I was not familiar with. It turned out to be a rock cook, which has some neon blue stripes over its face and body. I took some time to photograph this fish and I was concentrating so hard on this task that it was only later when editing my images that I noticed the background full of luminous green jewel anemones. After all this photography I had built up some deco stops. While I hung about I looked closer at the walls. In spaces between the kelp I found some beautiful anemones and tiny, vivid red sea scorpions. I didn't quite make it around to play in the lagoon with the seals, but I had experienced a great dive.

Back on board, a minke whale chose that time to fin by. Heading back to Stein we saw more cetaceans and another sea eagle. Even the sun came out and we caught a glimpse of it setting in the west. What a day.

Serious rain had returned for the following day and the tops of the big cliffs were shrouded in murk and low cloud. We travelled in the same direction as the day before but we stopped at a deep reef just off of Neist



The morning would see us travelling even further afield. We would head past the turbulent, tidal water around Neist Point Lighthouse. Otherwise the sea was calm and we saw dolphin and porpoise on our trip. The sea cliffs on Skye are spectacular and it was on a rock pinnacle here that we spotted our first white-tailed sea eagle. You may be on board for a dive trip, but expect to see a lot of wildlife above the waves, too. Arriving at our destination MacLeod's Maidens, three large pinnacles of rock form sea stacks, and offshore a reef full of gullies can be explored.

MACLEOD'S MAIDENS

This was a descent through clear blue water to just over 24m. Vis was superb at 15 metres. Clean sand ran into the mouth of a large gully. I finned along the reef at the edge of the sand and soon spotted sea hares and nudibranchs. This was nudibranch heaven. Then I saw a huge pair of eyes and noted a father lasher (short-spined sea scorpion). I had not seen one of those for a while. Small fish were darting around and with the beautiful reef, crystal water and bright white sand, this dive was stunning and I would have happily dived it all week! I could then venture into the gullies, which I had mainly ignored on my nudibranch hunt.

In the interval we explored the stacks and sea caves full of sea birds and seals. All eyes were on the next site though. A small island in the distance, An Tùphsgeir. At the rear of the island, a lagoon has formed and this is full of common and grey seals. Our dive site was on the other side of the island and it's renowned as the top dive in the area. It's called Conger Crevice.

"I took some time to photograph this fish and I was concentrating so hard on this task that it was only later when editing my images that I noticed the background full of luminous green jewel anemones"





Seals eye the dive boat



Soft sponge and coral growth is impressive

Point Lighthouse, where we had experienced the turbulent water the day before. Today it was quieter and the state of the tide enabled us to dive the site christened the Washing Machine by the skipper.

THE WASHING MACHINE

This is a deeper site and a steep boulder slope drops away well below safe diving limits. I stopped my descent just under 30m as most of the life was above this depth. Vis was around 12 metres. On my descent I saw squid eggs attached to an old piece of rope. Very big pollack darted into view and large schools of smaller specimens darted past on the edge of the vis. Next up was a large lesser-spotted dogfish. This launched into the tide to land a few metres away on the reef. Ascending the wall slightly the wall becomes more vertical with huge slabs of rock sticking out at right angles into the tide. Soft corals covered everything here and there were more cuckoo wrasse to be seen. Gullies now cut back into the kelp-covered cliffs and edible crabs and lobster were common sights. A high-energy site with the chance of seeing some big fish.

The scenic diving had been fantastic, but for the next dive we would drop down on the wreck of the Chadwick.

THE CHADWICK

There was much more of the Chadwick left to explore than I had hoped for. I expected a completely broken, flattened wreck but this was not the case. An upturned section of the hull partly covers a small boiler and the remains of the engine. My favourite section of the wreck was the stern and its large prop. This is a very tidal area and slack water is required to dive the site. Slack water occurs two hours after high water and two hours after low water Ullapool. Due to the high energy, soft corals cover the wreck. Add to that the large pollack and ballan wrasse that are found on the wreck and the Chadwick makes a very nice scenic wreck dive. Other divers on the trip finned into a shallow gully at the end of the dive and were treated to a fantastic display of jewel anemones in every colour imaginable. Next time I will make sure I find that.

Back on the deck of the Elena C, the rain pelted down and we passed a sodden and glum-looking sea eagle on the way back to Stein.

The last day of the trip dawned and we headed off out up the Water-nish Peninsular again. We headed further around than on day one and we arrived at the site Christened by skipper Gordon as the Tumble Dryer.

TUMBLE DRYER

Nothing was visible above the surface at this site, we were a good bit off-shore and no rocks broke the surface. Below us was a nice pinnacle with a wall that fell onto a rock sea floor. Kelp covered the top of the pinnacle at around 10m. The wall fell down from this to a max depth of around 25m. I liked this dive and I was soon finding nice large nudibranchs and this is an excellent site for them. What made the dive for me though was when an octopus moved in front of me. I don't think I would have seen it



Colourful snail

otherwise. I let it settle down for a while and moved closer, managing to get a few nice shots. Finning across the rocky bottom, I found that it gave way to sandy gullies at either end of the wall. There is plenty to see on the ascent, but the top of the pinnacle runs out at around 10m, which means you decompress looking at the kelp and nudibranchs from a distance.

Back on board the boat we headed around the headland to a site where we could view golden eagles. We found the nest but the chicks had fledged already and we didn't see them. We had to make do with porpoise for company as we headed for the final dive of the trip. Just outside Loch Bay, the dive site Ardbeg was found.

ARDBEG

This was another pinnacle sticking up in the tide and we were able to dive its leeward side. Vis dropped a little to eight metres and we all felt that the water temperature went down too. The top of the pinnacle was at 6m and the seafloor was at 18m. There was a lot of small stuff to be seen here - sea scorpions, starfish, crabs and nudibranchs kept us interested. The sandy seafloor, however, is home to a good few scallops and some divers were thinking more of their tummies and filled a bag for the evening meal. That was it then, the last ascent of the Elena C's ladder was over and the final steam back into Stein gave a couple of nature lovers who had joined the trip nice views of dolphin and porpoise. Gordon took the boat past the small islands at the mouth of Loch Bay and we saw the colony of common seals, which was a great experience in itself.

My thanks to Gordon and Aileen of Dive & Sea the Hebrides - it won't be 25 years till I see you again. ■

DIVE CENTRE . ACCOMMODATION . BOAT CHARTER . AIR



DIVESKYE
WORLD CLASS DIVING
at home, here in the UK

scenic . wrecks . night . drifts . excellent visibility . abundant life . prolific colour
dramatic terrain . a photographers paradise . wonderful topside wildlife



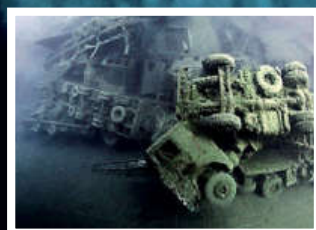
www.dive-and-sea-the-hebrides.co.uk



Join us
to celebrate
our
30th
Birthday
in 2016

clubs
small groups
universities
buddy pairs

SIGN UP
news, offers,
competitions,
special trips



dive  **in**

Capture the Beauty of
Spectacular Cyprus



Zenobia, one of the best wreck dives in the world, starts at 18m and is just a three minute boat ride from our base is an ideal dive location.

Great visibility and warm water make it perfect for all qualified divers, whether it's for your first wreck dive or a series of technical penetration dives, Zenobia has it all.

100+ trucks, a wide variety of fish life which includes turtles, large groupers, barracudas and a whole host of smaller marine life make Zenobia a photographic paradise.

www.dive-in.com.cy

Phone: +357 24627469

Email: larnaca@dive-in.com.cy

Whether you're just beginning in underwater photography, or looking to improve your skills, at Dive-In, we've got it covered!

SCHOLARSHIP DIARY

The Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society is a non-profit, educational organisation whose mission is to promote educational activities associated with the underwater world. It has offered scholarships for more than 35 years.

owuscholarship.org



LIGHTS... CAMERA... MANTA!

Text by **DANNY COPELAND**



I love night diving! That eerie feeling you get when you aren't quite sure what is lurking in the darkness just on the edge of your torch light is truly unique. But on this occasion, as I knelt down onto the sandy floor of Fesdu Lagoon, I was very much aware of what would soon be swimming around, very much in view - an animal I never tire of seeing. I sat there wondering when they would arrive.

And then the answer hit me! Quite literally in fact, in the form of a well-placed fin-slap to my head. I winced and looked up to find my view of the surface spotlight now blocked by four metres of manta ray massiveness, just casually hovering a few inches over me. Clearly it was show time! Just before I started recording, instinct told me to look ahead. The visibility was pretty horrendous - akin to looking through a window soaked in some kind of planktonic rain, with curtains of sandy darkness at the borders. As I strained to see through the water, I soon found myself staring into an incoming chasm - one that doubles up as a mouth. A second manta was flying through the torch lights towards me!

My past experiences with mantas told me not to worry - mantas often do this. But a little over a metre away, she hadn't changed course or slowed down in the slightest. "Oh god, this will hurt!" I remained motionless, braced myself for impact, and then... nothing. Sure enough, with a confident flick of her fins, the second manta glided gracefully up and over, clearing both me and the other manta still parked overhead. Crisis averted.

For the last four weeks, I've been lucky enough to call the tropical island of Landaa Giraavaru my home. Situated in Baa, one of the central atolls of the Maldivian archipelago, this Four Seasons resort is home to the Manta Trust's Maldivian Manta Ray Project (MMRP) - a research project that's been studying the world's largest known population of reef manta ray for over ten years. Their findings are playing a pivotal role in shaping how we manage and conserve manta rays, both in the Maldives and beyond. However I am a little biased - I volunteered for the project as a research assistant back in 2012, and it was during my time at Landaa that my role in the larger umbrella charity of the Manta Trust first took shape.

So why did I return to the Maldives, and to the MMRP? In a nutshell, I returned not to directly help with the research, but to film it. Underwater media has been a consistent theme throughout my Scholarship year, yet despite gaining qualifications and experience relevant to this field, I haven't felt like I've spent much time developing my filming and storytelling ability. I figured that the best way to address this was to throw myself in at the deep end - to set myself the challenge of producing several short films that revolve around the work of the MMRP. How hard could it be?

Pretty hard, as it turns out! Thinking up, planning, filming and creating a short film is no simple feat, especially when the films revolve around large, mobile marine animals, and a team that has a job to be getting on with. There were many soul-crushing moments where I thought I had filmed a really nice sequence of the researchers doing their thing, or of mantas performing underwater, only to get back to the laptop later that day to realise that I'd messed up the exposure, forgotten to turn on the microphone at a crucial point, or slightly screwed up the focus. Some days I was plagued with self-doubt, and couldn't help but ask myself if I really had what it takes to see my ideas through. On the other hand, there were times where I got everything right, and captured sequences of mantas being awesome.

It's safe to say that the last four weeks have been a rollercoaster of emotions - filled with extreme highs and at times, some pretty intense lows. And I loved it! I loved the challenges I set for myself, the trials and tribulations, and the reward of it all paying off in the end. Oh, and diving with night-feeding mantas was pretty incredible too, I suppose.

I collected 95% of the footage I was hoping to capture, and I'm currently putting the finishing touches to the main film I was hoping to create for the project (keep an eye out online!). I'd like to thank my friends at the Manta Trust, at the MMRP, and everyone at the Four Seasons Landaa Giraavaru, for helping to make this experience possible. Come April next year, I will look back on my time in the Maldives as one of the most educational, rewarding and eye-opening parts of my Scholarship year to date. ■

Danny Copeland

Cool under *pressure*



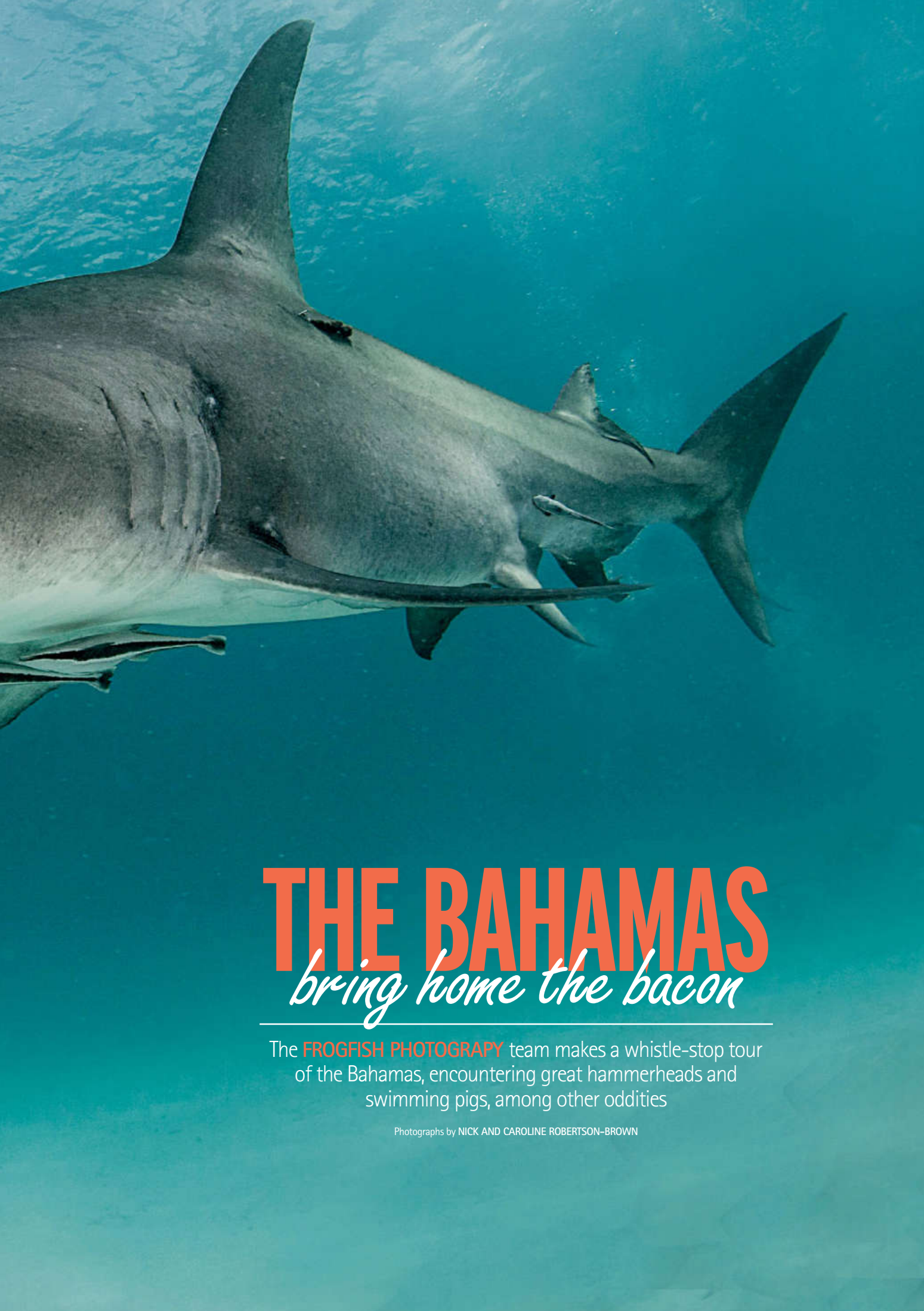
C11 TITANIUM EXTREME 1000 – LIMITED EDITION CHRONOMETER

Swiss made / Limited to 1000 pieces worldwide / Water resistant to 1000 metres (3280 ft) / Satin-brushed titanium case / Internal countdown bezel / Helium release valve / High density rubber dive strap with titanium clasp and embossed CW logo / 4.3mm sapphire crystal / High impact Superluminova™ indexes and hands / Self-winding, COSC certified Sellita SW200-1 chronometer

EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE AT christopherward.co.uk

CHR. WARD
LONDON





THE BAHAMAS

bring home the bacon

The **FROGFISH PHOTOGRAPHY** team makes a whistle-stop tour of the Bahamas, encountering great hammerheads and swimming pigs, among other oddities

Photographs by NICK AND CAROLINE ROBERTSON-BROWN

THE ADVENTURE YOU CRAVE THE LUXURY YOU DESERVE



 **Turneffe Island Resort**
A PRIVATE CARIBBEAN ISLAND

(UK) 011-501-532-2990 | www.TurneffeResort.com | (US) 877-805-6623

As you approach the Bahamas, coming in to land and dropping below the cloudbase, after a long trans-Atlantic flight, a warm glow creeps over you, and as you look out of the window you can see the islands fringed with white sand nestled in the alluring blue sea. It looks idyllic. You cannot wait to step out into the warm sunshine and get started on your holiday. The Bahamas are made up of 700 islands, cayes and large rocks, and so your first decision is which of these islands to stay on and visit. There are 16 main islands that tourists can easily travel to, and they are all very different. We tried to pack in as many as possible, in the time allowed, so that we could give you a flavour of what to expect.



When did you ever see a swimming pig?

Our first two destinations would cover the more-touristy islands of the chain, Grand Bahama and Nassau (New Providence), which are easily reached from both the UK and via the USA. The Bahamas are famous for their different shark-diving experiences and we were going to try to take in as many of these dives as possible. Our first experience was with Reef Oasis Dive Centre on Grand Bahama. Our schedule was punishing and so we only had the opportunity to do one dive with Reef Oasis - they chose to show off the skill of one of the dive guides, Miguel, who has learnt how to put sharks into tonic immobility. This technique means he touches the shark's sensitive nose, as they come in close to see if there are any fish on offer, and this instantly puts them into a torpor, or sleep-like state. I have to say that he delivered an excellent briefing on how and why he does this and was very respectful of the sharks. This technique is used in shark research, where this skill can allow scientists to take DNA samples and tag the sharks, and Miguel also removes hooks and lines the sharks have become entangled in. Don't get me wrong, he also puts on a show for the tourists too, but he ensures that no-one abuses the situation. A bait box brings in the sharks to the area, but he only gives a small treat to the individual shark that he 'hypnotises', rather than a mass brawl feeding of sharks. It is quite a sight!



How close do you want to get?

The Bahamas offers amazingly clear blue water and with the white sand and colourful reefs, it lends itself to some excellent photography. The following day, we were to spend our three dives out at sea with UNEXSO (Underwater Exploration Society). Our first dive, to Moray Manor, was a reef, with the treat of an older wreck, covered in life, at the mid-point of the dive. The highlight was seeing two huge pompano darting in and out of the wreck, and our second dive took us to a lovely coral garden, made up of small bommies dotted around the sand, with sponges and corals covering every inch of the rocks protruding up out of the sand. The dive centre is a large one, with a number of boats and a huge shop, where you can buy dive gear, clothing and tourist trinkets. Conveniently, there is also a good diver's restaurant serving up the perfect food for hungry divers, before heading out for the afternoon dive. Our final dive of the day saw us heading back to Shark Alley, where we were shown another shark display. This one, though, felt like organised chaos, with more divers in the water and with the sharks being regularly fed by the dive guide. At least 15 Caribbean reef sharks patrolled along the line we were asked to sit along, coming in very close indeed.

For us, it was time to jump on an internal flight to Nassau, the capital city of the Bahamas. With our flight delayed by fog (not something we were expecting!), we headed straight to Stuart Cove's Dive Centre from the airport, so that we could still fit in our two afternoon dives. This is an impressive dive centre, with a large waterside property and huge numbers of staff and boats. However, it does not feel too busy, as the staff were friendly and un-rushed in dealing with us (even though we were late). They let us use the classroom to unpack our bags, set-up our camera equipment, and store the rest of our bags while we were out diving. Again, here, the dive centre has a burger bar to keep everyone well fed.

For our first dive of the afternoon we headed out to a wreck that had been sunk alongside a nice reef pinnacle, so it gave the group the chance to spread out and dive the bits that they wanted to. Many of the dives here are very easy going, not too deep and, of course, are in clear turquoise water, so nothing feels too demanding. The first dive was nice, but we were all very excited about our second dive of the afternoon. Our guide was going to hide a bait box on the wreck, Big Crab, which is situated close to where some of the sharks are regularly fed. This combination - of having plenty of sharks, swimming around a wreck, without any feeding going on - was perfect. We could have stayed there all day! The

"While there were only ten divers in the water, it paid to make your air last and wear warm suits, so that you could stay until the very end, and be in the water with only two or three other divers"

Caribbean reef shark



"To access the grotto, you have to duck under the water and surface again in an amazing chamber, brightly spot-lit by the sun shining through a small hole in the top"

reef sharks cruised around the wreck, posing for the underwater photographers in our group. Eventually, we had to head back to the boat. But, we knew what we were going to ask for in the morning!

Our second day diving with Stuart Cove's was to be a four-dive day and the team wanted to show us the range of dives that they had available - with a new wreck being sunk and lovely reefs, there is plenty on offer. We ended up doing a new, large wreck called the Sea Trader, but came up wanting more sharks, so for the second dive we asked the crew for the bait box to be hidden in a different wreck, the Ray of Hope. Again, this was amazing, with sharks circling the wreck for the full duration of the dive. We headed back to shore a happy and lively group, full of stories about our diving morning. Another burger down, and it was back out to see more sharks. This time, we were to experience a shark feed. They do this a little differently here, putting a chunk of fish onto a stick and holding it up for a shark to snatch. The feed was done on the bow of a wreck, and made for an interesting and exciting experience, again with the sharks coming in very close. The dive guides wear chain-mail suits and crash helmets, as the sharks can get rowdy and bang into them. Our final dive of the day saw a number of the group deciding to relax in the sun and so only four of us descended onto the 8m reef. We were very lucky, as a group of 15 sharks joined us for the whole dive.

Now it was time to head to some of the smaller, more-remote islands to see what they had to offer. We flew to North Eleuthera Island, and then jumped onto a water taxi for the short ride to Harbour Island. Here we met up with the team from Valentine's Dive Centre. Alas, the wind had really picked up, and while we would still dive, we knew that the sandy bottom would have been stirred up and reduced the visibility. It was a great shame, as the dive (or make that dives) that we had come to do comprised a very fast drift dive through a channel between islands. While it can get up to 12 knots, we had a more-sedate, but still quick, drift dive ahead. We would do it as three dives, surfacing after 15 minutes, being picked up by the boat, and then being returned to the starting point to have another go! Why? Well, because spotted eagle rays hang out in the current and they are one of the most-wonderful sights you can hope to see underwater... and we did! On our first run, we encountered two huge eagle rays, effortlessly hanging in the current as we shot past, trying to fin madly to stay with them. It was a blast. All too soon, it was time to get the ferry back to Nassau. We stopped in Nassau overnight, in order to catch our next flight, this time to Bimini.

Bimini was the first island on our wish list when we headed to the Bahamas. This was for one reason only - great hammerhead sharks. Our packed itinerary meant that we only had one afternoon dive on Bimini, and we are already talking about going back. We dived with Neal Watson's Bimini Scuba Centre, who is the only local operation who dives with the hammerhead sharks, although bigger boats do, controversially, come over from Florida, only 43 miles away. Again, we were slightly hampered by high winds stirring up the bottom, but not enough to cancel, thank goodness, as it was amazing. We had two of these wonderful sharks spend the whole dive with us. While there were only ten divers in the water, it paid to make your air last and wear warm suits, so that you could stay until the very end, and be in the water with only two or three other divers. These incredible sharks are fed, and come in very close; close enough to have them nudging the camera! We were in complete awe of them. They are much bigger than the other sharks we had encountered on the trip, and this came with a little more attitude too. While it is becoming more common for people to dive with them, not many people have come so close to hammerheads while diving. It was a very special

It is possible to get extremely close to the reef sharks



Plane wreck in the shallows



**CYPRUS EMERGENCY
24hr DIVER HELPLINE
+357-99-518837**



We are the Preferred Provider for
DAN Europe, DAN International,
British Forces Cyprus, USAAF,
all visiting NATO forces and over
92 International Insurance
Companies for all DCI –
(Decompression Illness) Treatments.

IF IN DOUBT – SHOUT!!



info@hbocyprus.com www.hbocyprus.com
47a Eleftherias Avenue, Larnaca, 7102, Cyprus
Tel. +357-24-252501 77787-HBO
Fax. +357-24-252502

*Spoil yourself and
your dive buddies
this Christmas...*

*...and receive a 20%
Sport Diver discount!**



OPEN WATER®

A brand-new range of scuba diving
apparel designed for the home and dry

www.123t.com/openwater

* Valid throughout October-November 2015 only



The great hammerheads are truly magnificent



Sponge growth is prolific

experience. In the evening, we took a water taxi ride to North Bimini to eat at the Bimini Big Game Club, where fishermen come for their fun. Their discards into the water make this a place worth visiting though, as this has brought in bull sharks, which swim in very shallow water right under the walkways leading out to the fishing boats. The dive centre has even put in a cage for people to get in the water and see them.

The next day, we headed back to Nassau, which is a good hub to catch the many flights to the other islands, and took in some of the tourist sights and shops. Dinner was at a Dali, a modern tapas bar serving traditional Bahamian food. We can highly recommend this as a place to re-fuel on your trip, but we were early to bed, to get a red-eye flight to Exuma, our final island on our tour. Landing in Exuma is breath-taking. Flying in a small plane, you can see all the islands that make up the Exumas, whose 365 islands and cays (one for each day of the year) stretches over 120 miles. Our first day here was a mixed one. As we pulled up at the hotel, we were told that we could not dive, which made getting up at 4am rather pointless. The wind had finally beaten us. Usually, this would have been a real disappointment, but we were staying at Sandals, and this resort is something special, even by their high standards. Our room was about the same size as the ground floor of our house, with huge sliding doors right onto the beach. It was certainly going to be the perfect place to have a rest day.

The next day with our fingers tightly crossed that the weather was more suitable, we headed out to get our boat tour that would take us on an 80 mile excursion along the Exuma Cays. The tour, without our dive gear and just mask, snorkel and camera gear in hand, would take us to some famous spots. While we ignored the chat about which famous person owned which island, we knew that some in-water opportunities were coming our way.

The first was a sunken plane wreck, a drug-running plane off Norman's Cay, which had failed to make the runway of the headquarters for Carlos

Lehder's drug-smuggling operation in the 1980s. It is in very shallow water, right at the surface, and has remained fairly intact. Marine life has moved in and made it their home.

Our next stop was at Thunderball Grottos off Staniel Cay. It was here that two James Bond movies, *Thunderball* and *Never Say Never Again*, were filmed. To access the grotto, you have to duck under the water and surface again in an amazing chamber, brightly spot-lit by the sun shining through a small hole in the top. The effect is magical, with sunbeams shining to the sea floor. It is home to hundreds of fish and we could have spent longer, but the tour had to go on and it was the next destination that we had been desperate to see.

The swimming pigs of Big Major Cay in the Bahamas are just surreal. I like that the pigs were put on this cay, fitting in nicely with the *Animal Farm* character, Major! The pigs were put here in the 1990s as emergency food supplies, should the Gulf War mean that fuel shortages in the USA lead to food deliveries being stopped to the outer islands of the Bahamas. Soon the pigs had been forgotten about and, with no one to feed them, they broke loose from their pens and started foraging on the island. However, a shortage of food led them to the shore, where yacht owners and visitors would throw them food. Soon they learnt to swim for their dinner, visiting each boat that pulled into the bay, demanding food; it worked. Now they get visitors every day, who want to get into the water with them and give them food in return. We took hundreds of shots of them swimming around us, grunting as they go by. It was an excellent way to end our water-based tour of the Bahamas.

We have barely even scratched the surface of what the Bahamas has to offer. It has so many different islands, all with varied cultures and opportunities. But you cannot do it all in one week or fortnight trip, so if you want to go, pick two or three islands that you want to see and stick with them. It is a great location for shark diving, to be pampered with great weather and clear blue water, or just to relax. We tried it all and loved it. ■

BAHAMAS Adventure

Book an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy crystal clear water, vibrant reefs, blue holes as well as thrilling underwater encounters with sharks!



© Jane Morgan

See us at
DIVE
2015
NEC, Birmingham
24/25 October
STAND 900

NEW Seasonal brochure out now



DIVE
WORLDWIDE
TRAVEL | EXPERIENCE | CONSERVE



diveworldwide.com
01962 302050 sales@diveworldwide.com



The best of **Turks and Caicos Islands** Scuba Diving

West Caicos • Pine Cay • Northwest Point • Grace Bay • French Cay



**Dive
Provo**

Tel: Island (001) 649 946 5040 or US (001) 954 351 9771
or email: diving@diveprovo.com

www.diveprovo.com

Photograph by Stuart Philpott

Quote 'SP20' when
ordering to receive
an extra-special
20% discount

Check out our
website for the
2016 collection!



More than 30
designs to choose
from for hoodies,
loose and lady-
fit t-shirts,
sweatshirts and
even mugs!



OPEN WATER®

A brand-new range of scuba diving
apparel designed for the home and dry

www.123t.com/openwater

* Valid throughout October-November 2015 only



Miranda does **NEW ZEALAND**

Travelling with children on a diving holiday can be fraught with peril,
but **MIRANDA KRESTOVNIKOFF** found that New Zealand
was the answer to her prayers

Photographs by KYLE TAYLOR AND NICHOLAS KRESTOVNIKOFF



New Zealand really is a land of freedom. Freedom to move around, camp as and where you please, lots of space, time, vast expanses of openness and a lot of wildlife. An ideal destination to get away from the rat race and just chill out.

It's also a top diving destination and has been on my bucket list for a very long time. So a six-week trip there with the family had to include a few ventures beneath the waves even though the kids are only old enough to snorkel.

I'm often heard banging on about the issues of taking children on dive trips - good and bad. It's great that they get to come along but so often, if the kids can't dive yet, it means that instead of a family holiday where you spend time together, you end up spending much of the day apart as you go in separate directions. I realise that for some families this may be a good thing and the end vote will be that it keeps you all happy, but that's not the way we work. I actually enjoy spending quality time with my family. Every diving destination we've been to so far that has offered childcare has meant that we wave goodbye to the kids after breakfast only to be reunited with them after lunch or even later in the day. On our return, we try not to wax lyrical about the amazing time we've had, while the kids have been merely colouring or making cupcakes... It's a great relaxation for the parents, but it doesn't really get the kids involved in the nitty gritty of diving and give them a taste of what's to come. To be honest, they feel a bit left out.

"You're all booked in"

"Great. Oh... and what about the children?"

"Don't worry, we'll sort something out..."

That was the brief conversation I had with Dive! Tutukaka on the phone to book our dive trip. And I thought nothing more of it until we arrived the night before to meet the dive crew and say hi. I was expecting the usual kid's club set up, but there didn't seem to be one...

"So... What exactly do you do with the kids?"

"Oh - they come out on the boat with the divers, too."

I turned around to see two pairs of wide eyes and ecstatic grins...

"...and there's paddle boarding, snorkelling and kayaking, too."

Things just couldn't get any better!

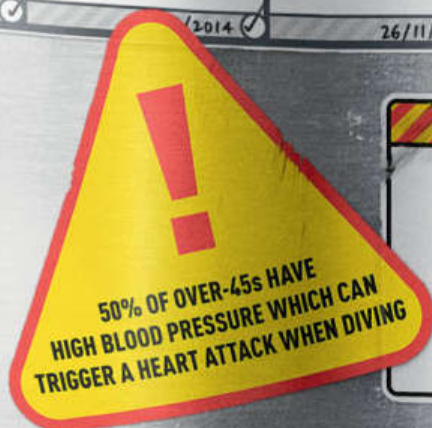


Lifeboats

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

HAVE YOU CHECKED
YOUR MOST IMPORTANT
PIECE OF KIT?

 10/10/2014 ✓	 2/1/2015 ✓	 26/11/2014 ✓	 26/11/2014 ✓
 14/3/2015 ✓	 10/10/2014 ✓		
	 7/7/2014 ✓	 10/10/2014 ✓	
 /2014 ✓	 26/11/2014 ✓	 14/3/2015 ✓	



CHECK IF YOU'RE 100% FIT TO DIVE AT RNLI.ORG/DIVESAFE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GP	
--	---

The welcome sight of the dive boat on the surface



"That was the icing on the cake for me and I really felt that, as a family, we had all stepped a little closer to diving holidays made for all four of us"

The trusty motorhome parked up on a quiet beach



Water-baby displaying budding freediving skills



The following morning, bright and early, we were greeted by a sea of sun-kissed, smiling faces - the shop was buzzing as happy punters were kitted up, dive bags loaded and everyone checked in. My children (six and nine) were positively bouncing - this was to be their very first time on a dive boat.

First up was the mandatory 'welcome on board our boat, here are the locations of the various life-saving pieces of equipment' spiel. This is always the rather dull part where you are told the location of the lifejackets, lifeboats, first-aid, etc. No-one really pays much attention, just like on the airplane as they are running through how to put on your life jacket, but it's compulsory practice. I explained to the kids that it was really important safety stuff and they had to sit still and listen carefully. I needn't have done. Our guide for the day had obviously not long left his career in stand-up comedy as he had us creased up laughing at the various ways we could use our sick bags, fall down the ladder and put on our lifejackets the wrong way around. He certainly had our attention... and the children's.

Next we had a role call - another essential procedure before diving. But this one doubled up as selecting our lunch options. Each person's name was called and instead of replying "I'm here", you had to answer with what you wanted for lunch - in a manly voice if you wanted a 'meat' sandwich and a slightly girly voice if you opted for going veggie. No stereotypes here! The kids played along with the joke and made us all laugh - it was a great ice breaker and set the tone for the rest of the day. Serious diving, with a sense of fun!

And then we were off. Calm seas, a cool breeze and a clear skies made for an easy journey out to the famous Poor Knights Islands. Described by Jacques Cousteau as one of the top ten dive destinations in the world, it was a 'must' on our list of things to do in New Zealand. North and South islands are awash with stunning dive sites, but so far, we had only snorkelled in a few bays, admittedly with dolphins on several occasions. I say that casually: one experience was with several hundred dusky dolphins in Kaikoura, and the others were with the rare Hector's dolphins, who seemed to be following us around the coast as we journeyed around the islands in our motor home. Taking your home with you was definitely the way to see New Zealand; having hot showers and hot chocolate on tap

after bracing wild swims in waterfalls and rivers was just the ticket, and six weeks on the road is a big ask for the family to camp in tents. This was the perfect solution, cosy at times but liberating and utterly convenient.

We had definitely saved the best watery experience of the trip for last. Our final few days touring New Zealand were spent exploring the crystal-clear waters of these stunning, protected islands. With our destination in view, we headed up to the top deck for an informative talk from our guide - firstly some history of the islands and then a thorough dive brief. Famous in their own right for an abundance of flora, fauna, bird life and reptilia that have evolved in glorious isolation for over two million years, the Poor Knights are the centre of a marine reserve of spectacular topography, extraordinary diversity and unique lifeforms. The islands are remnants of ancient volcanoes which erupted in the Pacific Ring of Fire, the remaining cliffs leap 100 metres sheer from the waves and plunge an equal depth below. Captain Cook had merely labelled these islands 'The Poor Knights' on his log, with no explanation as to why, so there is a great deal of speculation surrounding the name. Some say it's to do with an old-fashioned pudding they used to eat, others say it's because they look like a knight lying down with his shield on his chest. Either way, it didn't matter - our eyes were on the water and the huge numbers of fish that seemed to be gathering around our boat.



*"A dark shadow lurked below us and I looked down to see
a short-tailed stingray gliding gracefully below...
then another, and another"*



Damselfish



Rock fish

Looking overboard as we were preparing for our first dive, we could see the water boiling with hundreds of blue mao mao. The kids were itching to get in for a snorkel and were really excited at the prospect of so much in the water to see. As a family, we are a little way off all four of us being able to dive together, as my youngest is too young to do a dive qualification, so this was the next best thing - the children enjoying being in the water, duck diving and snorkelling, with us scuba diving below them. This way they could see the ease with which we dive and feel one step closer to being a real grown-up scuba diver. It was an invaluable experience for them both. The diving was superb - as we hit the water it seemed that all the fish in the area had convened around our boat, in a friendly New Zealand fashion, to welcome us into the water. There were shoals of two-spot demoiselles mixing with the mao mao, punctuated with the odd snapper and some big kingfish; just some of the 125 species of fish found here. With so much going on, it was hard to know where to look and what to photograph, so we headed to the sheer wall to marvel at the beautiful soft corals, encrusting sponges and vibrant anemones that make this location so unique. Hiding among these, but frankly not at all well camouflaged, were a pair of Verco's tambja - yellow nudibranchs with charming and slightly crazy blue tufts and fluffy bits, which I'm sure are extremely attractive to the opposite sex.

All this macro life made me forget to watch what was over my other shoulder. As is so often the case, we get engrossed in one thing only to miss something equally as memorable right behind us. A dark shadow lurked below us and I looked down to see a short-tailed stingray gliding gracefully below ...then another, and another. This was obviously a great spot for them to feed and we could feel the gentle currents as we swam through the arches and around the headlands. Hovering above them we were able to marvel at their gentleness and gracefulness. The short-tailed stingrays were joined by their longer tailed cousins until we felt like we

Providing Quality Diving Equipment Since 1982 

BEAVER DIVE-LITE THE CHOICE OF TRAVELLING DIVERS WORLDWIDE...

Beaver have produced a large range of Bags for the travelling Diver for over 30 years. All designed for carrying heavy and bulky equipment, to withstand the demands of worldwide travel. The Dive-Lite provides ample space, ease of use and above all strength and durability, which have remained our priority.

- **WEIGHS ONLY 3.2KG**
- **TELESCOPIC HANDLE**
- **600D PU MATERIAL**
- **46 X 35 X 90 CM**
- **145 LITRE CAPACITY**
- **2 PERSONAL BAGS**
- **IDEAL FOR AIRLINES**

BEAVER DIVE-LITE

*Available from all
leading Dive Stores
R.R.P. only £110.00*



Beaver
WWW.BEAVERSPORTS.CO.UK

e-mail sales@beaversports.co.uk Telephone 01484-512354



The Krestovnikoff family enjoying New Zealand

were surrounded in all directions. I just hoped that the children were seeing what we were.

Surfacing after the dive, I was greeted by my daughter, who already had the kettle on (she learns fast!) and was taking orders for tea and hot chocolate. The kids were brimming with all they had packed into their hour in the water and, yes, they had seen the rays. One of the staff had given up his day off to take them, not just snorkelling, but paddle-boarding for the first time, kayaking and generally building up their water skills. Thanks Kyle. I owe you one!

Between dives we honoured our sandwich choices made earlier, munching as we floated inside Rico Rico Cave - the biggest sea cave in the world. A record claim lodged with the Guinness Book of Records, it is an amazing 7,900,000 cubic feet with over a hectare of sea surface area inside the cave itself. At 134 metres long and 84 metres wide, it's world-renowned for its incredible acoustics and performers flock from around the world to sing and play there. And another chance for the crew to have some fun. There was a careful orchestration using the passengers as we shouted and stamped our feet in unison to make the longest echo we could. Apparently a ship's horn echo can last for up to 36 seconds, such are the unique acoustics of this magical cave.

Our second dive was no less memorable than the first - more world-class diving and more fun for the kids on the surface watching our progress below. What made my heart sing was that they witnessed the same huge stingrays that we saw cruising around the arches and overhangs: they spotted the same nudibranchs (albeit from a few metres above), and they looked as though they were having as much fun as we were. That was the icing on the cake for me and I really felt that, as a family, we had all stepped a little closer to diving holidays made for all four of us.

By the simple act of being out on the boat, the children got to see divers beneath them and realise that diving is accessible, straight forward and well within their grasp. It was a real inspiration for them to get quali-



The children took to snorkelling like ducks to water

fications under their belt when they are ready. I love the inclusive nature of this approach - like so many other things we encountered in New Zealand, they try not to present barriers to stop you doing things with kids, just make sure you are safe when you do. This experience certainly left them really hungry to learn to dive for real.

Back to base, Dive! Tutukaka's customer service didn't end: there were recommendations for places to eat, beaches to pitch up on, all tied up with a cheery farewell from our entertaining crew. They run a daily non-diving boat trip aptly named 'Perfect day'. It seems every day is perfect in Tutukaka.

Diving aside, having our motor home meant we could disappear off to find a spot for the night. A short ride took us to the idyllic Woolly Bay, gently illuminated by the setting sun. As the day-trippers left, we were the only ones on the beach. It couldn't have been more perfect. Fresh fish on the BBQ and a glass of chilled Sauvignon Blanc, we slept soundly, eagerly anticipating the underwater adventures that would come the following day.

Reading reviews of the diving in the Poor Knights Islands, I came across the following: 'Diving worth crossing the world for'. I couldn't agree more. ■

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NEW ZEALAND



GETTING THERE

There are various ways of getting to New Zealand. Miranda flew with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow to Christchurch via Singapore.

WHEN TO GO

Their summer is our winter. December and January are busiest, but will have the best weather.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A valid passport with six months left to run.

CURRENCY

New Zealand dollar (£1 = New Zealand \$2.38).

WHERE TO EAT AND MEET

Being fancy free in a motor home means you can choose to eat at a restaurant or bar, or prepare your own meals in the glorious outdoors.

VERDICT

New Zealand is a fantastic country for a family holiday, with plenty topside and in the water to keep everybody occupied and happy.

SOPRAS

sub

design by: Tudor Fulga - Romania



Vegas is MAGIC

3 mm wetsuit
Superstretch neoprene
Anatomical design
Nylon inside for quick drying
Embossed Supratex knee pads
P.U. printing on shoulders
Neck and back zipper



SCUBALAB WHAT'S NEW

SCUBAPRO FRAMELESS | £75 (€103.03)



The extraordinary fit and unmistakable looks have earned the Frameless a large fan base and an array of compliments over the years. The Frameless mask is now also available in white! The soft, anti-allergy silicone and the quick adjust buckle system ensure optimum comfort.

www.scubapro.co.uk

FOURTH ELEMENT SILFRA | £89.95 (€123.56)



Classic-styled button-neck sweater made from Technowool - a knitted outer that is bonded with a fleece inner. Heritage-style leather trims. Available in grey or black.

www.fourthelement.com

SUBGEAR DEFINITION WETSUIT RANGE

£99-£229 (€136-€314.58)



The Definition has become one of SubGear's most-sought-after products since its introduction in 1999. Over the last 15 years this classic has moved with the times, becoming more comfortable, fashionable and offering more features than ever. With the striking new colours, the wetsuits are unmistakable.

The 7mm Definition IR7 steamer (£229) made with warm and cozy Titanium Plush neoprene offers first-rate protection in temperate regions. It is named after its Infrared fleece inner lining, which reflects body heat, increasing insulation. The Definition IR5 (£189) has the same advantages as the IR7 but, as the name gives away, this is a 5mm wetsuit. The men's version with a simple but tasteful white design looks both sporty and elegant. The contrast of black neoprene and pink detail makes the ladies 5mm irresistible.

Both the 7mm and 5mm versions can be combined with the Definition vest (£99) for even more warmth and thermal protection.

The Definition 3 (£139) is constructed of Flex Tech and Soft Neoprene but still manages to keep the distinct 3D-cut, which provides an exceptional level of comfort. Zips on the back, neck, wrists and ankles make it incredibly easy to get on and off. The Definition 3 is available in male sizes only. For warmer waters, SubGear's chic Element 3mm is the perfect wetsuit for female divers.

www.subgear.com



SUUNTO
ZOOP
DIVE COMPUTER

INSTORE • ONLINE • MOBILE

www.DEEPBLUEDIVE.com

DEEPBLUE
DIVE CENTRE
www.deepbluedive.com

SOPRASSUB DECO OXYGEN REGULATOR | £155 (€212.92)



The Deco Oxygen first stage is a conventional piston made of a chrome-plated corrosion-resistant marine brass. It has four intermediate pressure ports and one high pressure port and is very light, weighing only 480 grams. The second stage is also very light (190 grams) with an inhalation effort of only 1.0 CIW (column inches of water equivalent to 2.5 millibar) and exhalation effort of 0.95 CIW (about 2.4 millibar). It is supplied standard with a comfortable anatomic mouthpiece and a green braided hose of 100cm.

www.soprassub.com

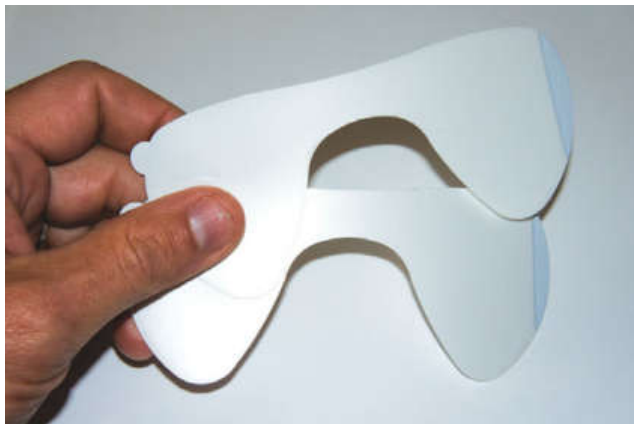
FOURTH ELEMENT SULU | £59.95 (€82.35)

Women's fitted zip-through hoodie. Supersoft, cosy and very comfortable peach-finish fabric with deep double layer, three-piece hood, shaped side seams, taping detail at back neck, brass-effect zipper and drawcord tipplings, brush-back fleece. Fully machine washable. Available in electric blue, grey marl, charcoal and navy.

www.fourthelement.com



FOGCITY FOG RESISTANT LENS | £10.95 (€15.04)



We've all had it, regardless of whether we have used toothpaste, some dedicated cleaning agent or even got the lighter out - yes, I am talking about a fogged-up mask. The FogCity product aims to put an end to this once and for all. The lens, which is easy to apply, comes in three sizes - one for single-lens masks, and then a medium and large size for twin-lens masks - and each pack contains two sets of lenses.

You basically clean the mask, attach the fog-resistant lens on the glass, and then activate it by briefly dipping it in water. And when it is time to change the lens, it can be removed as easily as it was attached without any remaining tarnish on your mask. Note - the FogCity lenses are not suitable for use with prescription masks.

www.fogcitypro.com

APEKS RK3 FINS | £120 (€164.84)



The RK3 fin design has been the standard for military, Special Ops, Coast Guard, and public safety divers for decades. It is a traditional all-rubber design. The RK3 blade material is formulated to hold up in the toughest environments, temperatures, and abuse. The short, wide blade provides maximum forward thrust while maintaining great manoeuvrability. The vented blade design reduces resistance on the upstroke and enhances thrust on the down stroke. The fins come standard with stainless steel spring straps.

Two large grommet holes on either end are designed to fit most carabineers, and there are three sizes available - medium, large and super.

www.apekssdiving.com



SCUBALAB GEAR GUIDE

Each month, the Sport Diver test team assembles to rate and review a selection of diving equipment from a range of manufacturers. This issue:

Fins priced under £50

FINS. Fins are an essential part of the diver's arsenal - without them, you aren't going anywhere, literally! Fins provide propulsion and power us off on our underwater adventures. We split the fins into three price brackets - under £50, £50-£100, and over £100 - and then assembled the Test Team to venture into the chilly waters of Vivian Quarry in the heart of Snowdonia in North Wales in September for the annual review. This issue we are focusing on the budget range to see what is available in today's marketplace. As well as giving our opinion on the looks of the fins - after all, aesthetics are becoming increasingly important in diving - we also comment on the comfort of the fins, how easy they are to get on and off, and how they perform using a variety of kicking styles, including a 'normal' fin kick, frogkick, back kick and helicopter turns.

THE TEST TEAM



MARK EVANS

- Sport Diver editor
- PADI Divemaster
- 30 years of diving experience



MATT MARTIN

- Dive officer, Blue Planet Aquarium
- PADI OWSI
- 10 years of diving experience



WILL HARRISON

- Sport Diver deputy editor
- PADI TEC 50
- 6 years of diving experience



BARRY HENDERSON

- Rope access specialist
- NAUI OW Diver
- 5 years of diving experience

BCDS ON TEST

MODELS

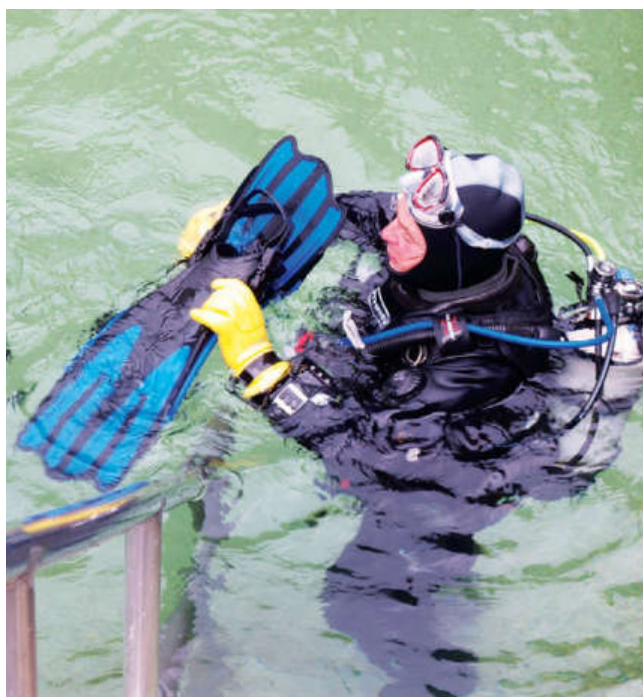
- IST Sumi
- Oceanic Viper
- Seac Sub Prop Propulsion
- Sub Gear Wake
- Typhoon Pro II

DATE TESTED 15/10/15

WATER TEMPERATURE
11-12 degrees C

Test dives conducted at Vivian Diving Centre in Llanberis, North Wales - see them at the Dive 2015 show, 24/25 October

"This issue we are focusing on the budget range to see what is available in today's marketplace"



SCUBAPRO
BCD'S & WINGS

INSTORE • ONLINE • MOBILE

www.DEEPBLUEDIVE.com

DEEPBLUE
DIVE CENTRE
www.deepbluedive.com



FULL FOOT V OPEN HEEL: Full-foot fins tend to be much lighter than comparable open-heel fins, and because they are designed to fit bare feet, you don't have to wear spongy neoprene boots, which means a more-efficient transfer of energy. Heel-strap fins are ideal in colder waters, or where you have to traverse rough terrain to your dive site.



IST SUMI | £44.95 (€61.86)



MARK: Solid, large paddle fins. If you have strong legs, you will love these, as you can get some serious thrust using a normal fin stroke, but you do have to put the effort in. Excellent frogkick, but the large side made back kicking a bit of a chore. Large foot pocket.

WILL: Good all-round fin, with plenty of power in normal and frogkick mode, though I also found the back kick to be seriously hard work. The foot pocket is large and comfortable, and the strap/clips work well.

MATT: Big foot pocket allows you to get your foot all the way in, and yet it is still easy to put on and take off. Standard paddle fin looks, but it offers decent propulsion and if you put some muscle into it, good thrust if you require it. Solid

set of fins.

BARRY: Really good budget fin. Nice big foot pocket makes them easy to get on and off, the buckles are quite chunky, so no dramas with thick gloves, and it performed well on all fin strokes. One of the top fins in this bracket.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
COMFORT	★★★★★
LOOKS	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★



WE LIKE

Build quality, comfort, performance



WE DON'T LIKE

Nothing worth mentioning

OCEANIC VIPER | £44.99 (€61.92)



MARK: Absolute belter of a fin. Actually looks like it belongs in the next price bracket - and to be fair, it would probably give a good account of itself there too. Plenty of propulsion whatever fin kick you use, easy to get on and off, and a comfy foot pocket. Bargain for the money.

WILL: Lightweight paddle fin. I felt it was a bit 'floppy' on the frogkick, but on a regular stroke it performed extremely well, and it was decent to back kick in as well. I wasn't a fan of the clips, which seemed a bit of a faff. Great value for money overall, though.

MATT: Not revolutionary in the looks department, but it does the job it is intended to. Good control when making small movements, and decent thrust when you need

it. Easy to get on and off. Lightweight, so good for travelling with.

BARRY: Nice fin. Went on and off the drysuit boots okay, and the strap is easy to adjust. Decent performance in all fin strokes - worked very well with a normal finning action. Best fin here for me.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
COMFORT	★★★★★
LOOKS	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★



WE LIKE

Comfort, price, build quality, performance



WE DON'T LIKE

Nothing worth mentioning

EXCLUSIVE
PACKAGES

DEEPBLUE
DIVE CENTRE
www.deepbluedive.com



Scubapro MK25/S600 Regulator with R195 Octo & Twin Console



SPLIT V PADDLE: Split fins slice through the water with minimal resistance, and their flexible blades generate lift through a 'jet-propulsion' effect. Paddle fins tend to have stiffer blades, though some have 'hinges' or flexible sections to create more thrust for effort. If you are diving in areas of strong currents and surge, then paddle fins are the way forward.

SEAC PRO PROPULSION | £50 (€68.82)



MARK: These fins are reminiscent of the good old reliable Mares Avanti Quattros in looks, but in the water I just found them extremely stiff, which made them hard work to power through the water. Undoubtedly give some thrust, but you need seriously strong legs to get the most out of them. Comfortable foot pocket, and easy to get on and off.

WILL: I found these fins extremely tiring - after swimming around in the test quarry, my legs were starting to wilt. Even on the frogkick I found it hard going. Just far too stiff and inflexible for me, I'm afraid.

MATT: I found these had a good weight for me, keeping me nicely in trim, and they were easy to get on and off. You do need to have

strong thigh muscles to get the best from them, and I think it all depends on the physicality of the user as to whether they would be able to get on with them.

BARRY: I seemed to put in a lot of effort for little propulsion, on all fin strokes, and my legs were feeling cramped at the end of the dive. Decent looks, and easy to get on and off, and the foot pocket was very comfortable.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
COMFORT	★★★★★
LOOKS	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★



WE LIKE

Build quality, comfort



WE DON'T LIKE

Extremely stiff and needed strong legs to get the most out of them



AQUA LUNG
BAGS

INSTORE • ONLINE • MOBILE

www.DEEPBLUEDIVE.com





VEO 1 - £135

Nitrox	Up to 50%
Gas Switching	No
Alarms	Audible, On Screen
Backlight	No
PC/Mac Interface	No
Buttons	1

VEO 2 - £169

Nitrox	Up to 50%
Gas Switching	No
Alarms	Audible, On screen, LED
Backlight	OceanGlo
PC/Mac Interface	Optional
Buttons	2

VEO 3 - £214

Nitrox	Up to 100%
Gas Switching	2 Gases
Alarms	Audible, On screen, LED
Backlight	OceanGlo
PC/Mac Interface	Optional
Buttons	3

Standard Features:

- Dual Algorithm
- Water / Push button activation
- Automatic altitude adjustment
- Optional deep stops
- Safety stop
- Variable ascent rate
- Lifetime warranty



Make the most of your dive by choosing between two optimised algorithms. One for repetitive multi-level diving and another for maximising bottom time on deeper dives



Oceanic dive computers bought, registered and annually serviced in the UK are covered by a Lifetime Warranty. Battery kits are supplied free of charge so you'll only pay for the labour



RETURNING HOME AFTER A DAY'S DIVING: Like all your equipment, fins will need looking after, so first give them a good rinse or soak in fresh water to rid them of residual salt and dirt. Make sure you get into the buckle assembly or spring strap, as you don't want sand and salt particles being left in there.

SUB GEAR WAKE | £39 (€53.67)



MARK: Virtually identical in design to the Typhoon Pro II, but look so much better in white. Performance was much the same - decent thrust using all fin strokes, comfy foot pocket, and easy to get on and off. Bargain for the money.

WILL: Like the Typhoons, I found these quite hard work in the water. The frogkick was tolerable, but I still found my legs were getting tired during the dive. Comfortable foot pocket. Not that keen on the white.

MATT: Again, a good fin overall. Well weighted for me, as were the Pro IIs, and the different fin strokes all worked okay. Reasonably efficient. The fins benefit from the 'iPhone white' colour scheme.

BARRY: The white colour really makes a difference to the looks of this fin - it doesn't look as cheap as the Typhoon, yet it is £1 less. Performance was much the same - I didn't seem to get a huge amount of propulsion using a normal kick stroke, but the frogkick was okay. Comfy foot pocket, and easy to get on and off.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
COMFORT	★★★★★
LOOKS	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★



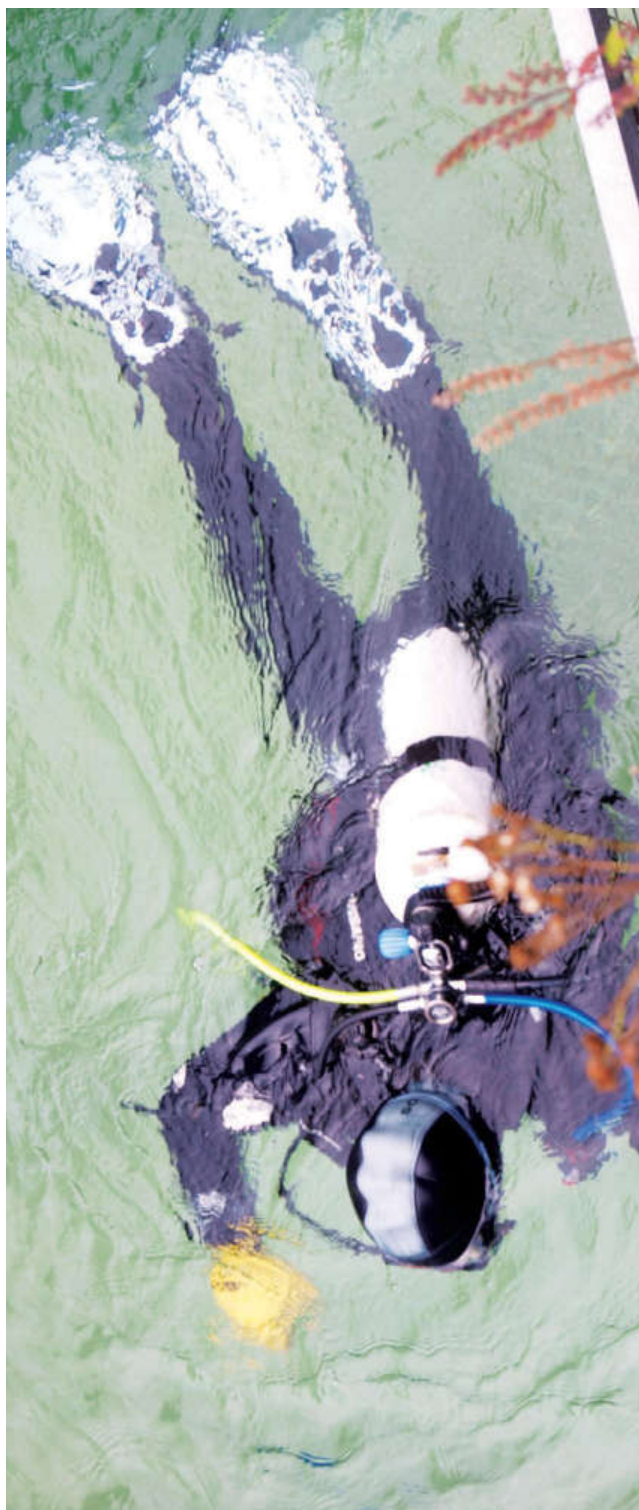
WE LIKE

Comfort, looks, price



WE DON'T LIKE

Quite stiff and needed a lot of effort



DEEPBLUE
DIVE CENTRE
www.deepbluedive.com

INSTORE • ONLINE • MOBILE



AQUA LUNG

TUSA

SCUBAPRO

mares

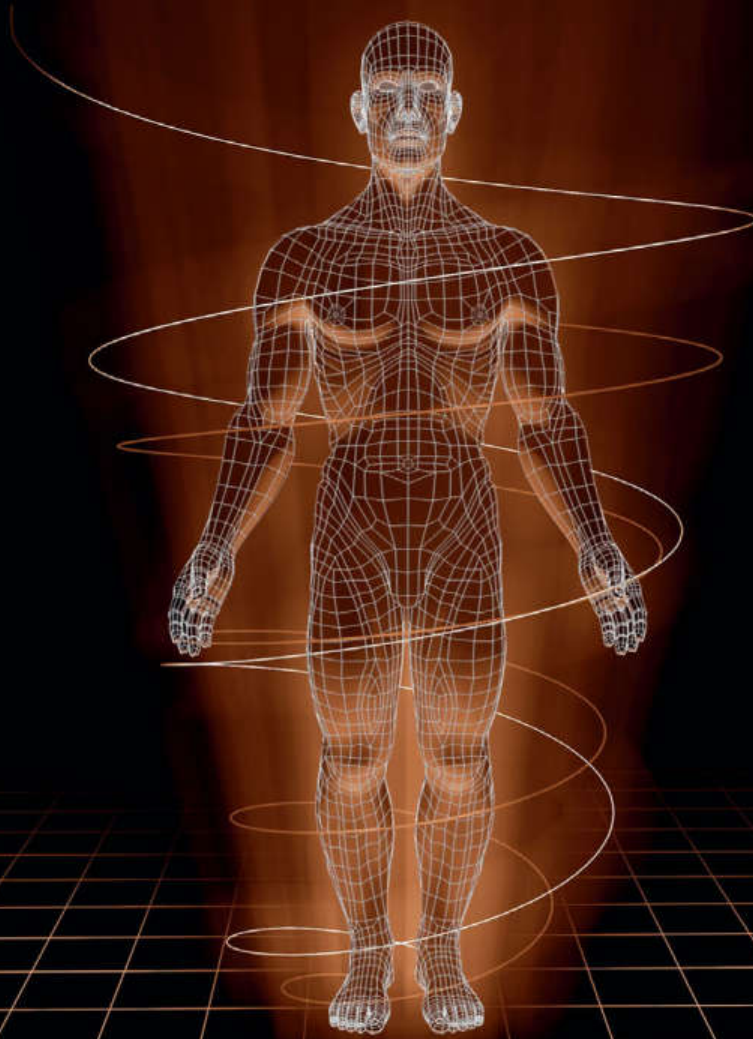
SUB GEAR

SUUNTO

apeks

FOR ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT NEEDS.

BIOMAP



THE FUTURE IS NOW

LAUNCH DATE: OCT 24 2015

DIVE 2015

BIRMINGHAM NEC



fourth element
EQUIPMENT FOR ADVENTURE



RETURNING HOME AFTER A DAY'S DIVING: Once completely dry, store out of the sun. Heat and light can cause premature cracking and discolouration, and can also weaken the bonds between composite materials. Always store fins flat, otherwise you could end up with a permanent bend or crease in the blade, which will hinder in-water performance.

TYPHOON PRO II | £39.95 (€54.98)



MARK: Basic paddle fin design, with fairly standard clips, but they offer reasonable propulsion all round, and you can get a decent pace on if you dial up the effort. Okay all round, and good value for money.

WILL: I found these to be hard work as well. They seemed quite stiff. I was putting in a lot of finning effort and not seeing a good return. Comfortable enough, with a deep foot pocket and reasonable clips.

MATT: Decent fin in general. Well weighted for me, and the overall performance was okay. You got a reasonable amount of thrust from the level of effort exerted, so they were quite efficient. Fairly basic looks, but they are under £40.

BARRY: These look a bit cheap to me, and I know they are at the bottom end of the price scale, but others here are only a fiver more and look much more expensive. I didn't seem to generate a huge amount of propulsion using a normal kick, but the frogkick was better, and they were comfortable.

SPORT DIVER VERDICT	
PERFORMANCE	★★★★☆
COMFORT	★★★★☆
LOOKS	★★★★☆
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★☆



WE LIKE

Price, comfort



WE DON'T LIKE

Quite stiff and needed a lot of effort



CONCLUSION. When you are paying less than £50 for a pair of fins, you don't necessarily expect to get something that is a bit of an eye-opener, but the Oceanic Vipers proved to be just such a piece of kit. They look more expensive than they are, and their performance was light years ahead of the competition - only the IST Sumi came anywhere near. They are quite lightweight, not too long, so still plenty of manoeuvrability, and they work well in all fin strokes, including back kick. Good return of thrust versus effort.

The Vipers so dominated this priced bracket that we have taken the unusual step of awarding them both the Best Value and Choice awards, as all four testers agreed that these were the fins they would buy. A worthy winner.

DB
ESSENTIALS



DEEPBLUE
DIVE CENTRE
www.deepbluedive.com

QUALITY.
SINCE 1971,
OUR MAIN
COURSE.



DX 200 High performance, minimum weight.

Meet DX200 - one of the lightest double-balanced regulators on the market. **The first stage** diaphragm, with its small size, ensures consistent performance at high depths even with low pressure in the cylinder. DX200 offers the ability to externally adjust intermediate pressure, ensuring maximum simplicity during maintenance. The balanced **second stage** allows for control of the inhalation effort and Venturi effect to maximize ease of breathing. New Luxury Treatment Technology ensures DX200 stays both scratch and corrosion resistant.



SCUBALAB TEST EXTRA

WEEZLE EXPEDITION SCIENTIFIC UNDERSUIT | £360 (€495)



Barry Henderson: Editor Mark Evans was kind and allowed me to test out Weezle's top-of-the-range Expedition Scientific undersuit. On the previous group test with BCDs, I had made the mistake of putting on a thin topside undersuit beneath my diving drysuit, and I was absolutely frozen after we had spent several hours in the water getting in and out of various jackets.

This time around, we were testing fins, and after getting into the Weezle and then donning my O'Three drysuit, I was actually looking forward to entering the water at Vivian Quarry to cool down a bit!

The warmth that my body was able to generate and maintain wearing the Expedition Scientific undersuit was truly remarkable. At the same time, I was amazed how easy it was to move around in - it did not restrict

me in any way, shape or form. I can't believe I am saying this, but I am now genuinely looking forward to some winter dives wearing the Expedition Scientific to see how it fares when the temperatures get into low single figures.

The Expedition undersuit was developed with assistance from experts in the scientific and technical diving fields, and Extreme Plus filling has been added in strategic areas, namely those lowest points of the body when in a nice horizontal trim. The O1 jacket is lined with Weezle's highest wicking TS1, and a crotch-strap system helps keep it in place over the top of the O2 salopette-style trousers, which are also fully lined. The jacket has a 1/2 zip, tensionable collar, a front hand-warmer pocket, and thumb loops to aid donning. The salopettes

have adjustable shoulder straps, zippered fly and two front pockets, as well as elastic stirrups and 'boot zips', to make it easy to put on.

The exterior is made of durable ripstop Paratex, with toughened protection at the bottom and knees.

It is available in a wide range of sizes, from extra small to extra-extra-extra large, and because it is a two-part undersuit, the top and the bottom (£195 & £165 respectively) can be ordered in different sizes to get that custom fit.

And warm as it is, I have to say, the Weezle Expedition Scientific undersuit is so bright in its high-viz yellow that it can almost keep you toasty just by looking at it! A standard black version is also available.

www.weezle.co.uk

DEEPBLUE
DIVE CENTRE
www.deepbluedive.com

INSTORE • ONLINE • MOBILE

mares
just add
water



New Ratio iX3M

The best Dive Computer you have ever had.



The Ratio iX3M dive computer is shown with a black face and silver bezel. The display shows the following information: 100% battery, 29.6m depth, 18:09 time, 1:20 NDL, 15:15 time, 21% MIX, 1.40 PP02, 0.0 ASC, and the Ratio logo. The device is surrounded by images of diving equipment like fins and a diver underwater.

LIQUID SPORTS

RATIO COMPUTERS

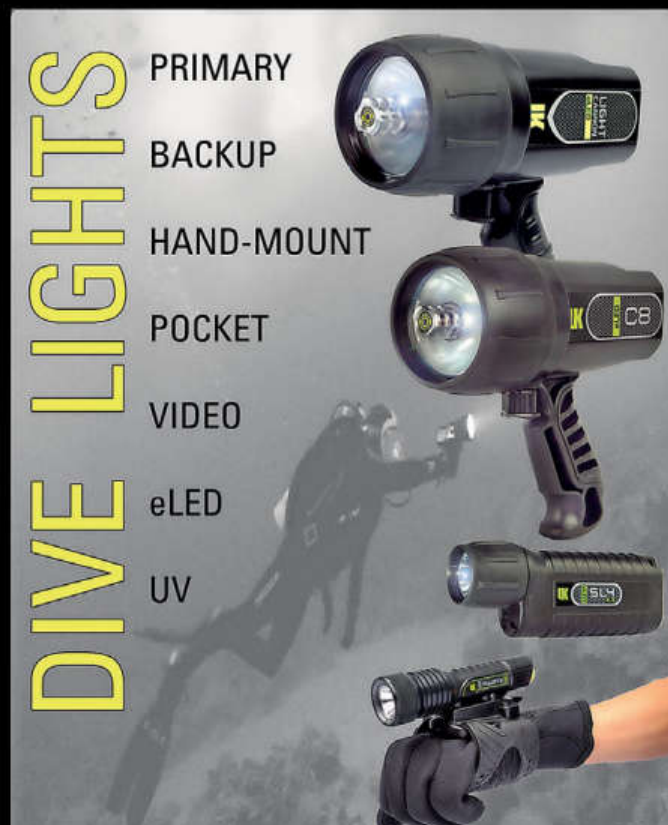


THE NEXT GENERATION
YS-D2
Underwater Strobe

READY & TTL AUDIBLE CONFIRMATION
DUAL POWERED MODELLING LIGHT
ILLUMINATED REAR CONTROLS
FASTER RECYCLING TIME
WIDER EV RANGE AND MORE...

WWW.SEA-SEA.COM

SEA&SEA
THE UNDERWATER IMAGING COMPANY



DIVE LIGHTS

- PRIMARY
- BACKUP
- HAND-MOUNT
- POCKET
- VIDEO
- eLED
- UV

WWW.SEA-SEA.COM

UK Underwater Kinetics

SCUBALAB TEST EXTRA

ATOMIC AQUATIC VENOM FRAMELESS | £111.95 (€151)



Mark Evans: When the Atomic Aquatics Venom mask was first released, the first thing it did was cause a sharp intake of breath, mainly due to the price, which was substantially more than other masks on the market. However, this being from Atomic, which only does high-end products, it was hardly surprising that it was top of the tier when it came to cost. It was only on closer inspection that you realised that much of this price was down to the use of exclusive materials such as the UltraClear Schott Superwhite 100 percent optical-grade glass, which doesn't feature any of the minor discolouration of 'normal' tempered glass. Now the Venom Frameless version has been released to market, and it features the same UltraClear glass lens as the standard model, but what makes it totally different

is the use of exclusive Bi-Mould silicone skirt technology, which in the States has been nicknamed the rather-bizarre title of 'Gummy Bear'. That said, I can see where they are coming from to an extent - grab hold of the skirt on the Venom Frameless and gently pull it back and forth between your fingers and it is a slightly disconcerting feel that is not that far off the consistency of gummy sweets!

UK distributor Justin Hanning said that the 'Gummy Bear' skirt means that the Venom Frameless has 'comfort that has never been seen or experienced in diving masks from any other manufacture to date'. I just had to see for myself, and luckily Justin had just received some samples in time for the annual TEKCamp event at Vobster Quay, so I grabbed a black-and-red version and

took it for a dive when I accompanied TEKCamp snapper Jason Brown on a photo mission.

I have to say that the Venom Frameless is extremely comfortable. Whether it actually is that much more comfortable than some other masks on the market is debatable, but it is undoubtedly a great mask. The field of vision is good, the low profile makes it easy to clear, and the comfy strap is easy to adjust thanks to the no-fuss buckle arrangement. There is no getting away from the fact that over £110 for a mask is a lot, but you know that at least some of that hard-earned cash is paying for unique technological advances - and you'll probably be the only one on the boat wearing one!

www.atomicaquatics.com



GoPro
Be a HERO.

CAMERAS & ACCESSORIES

INSTORE • ONLINE • MOBILE

www.DEEPBLUEDIVE.com

DEEPBLUE
DIVE CENTRE
www.deepbluedive.com

Evolve



1943 First Aqualung

2007 i3 Buoyancy Control System

Aqua Lung Axiom i3 with Wrapture System



Wrapture™ harness system

AXIOM *i3*

Our most comfortable and easy to use Buoyancy Compensator yet, the Axiom i3. The **Wrapture™** harness system distributes the weight evenly away from your shoulders and around your centre of gravity, providing total comfort and stability. The unique cylinder **valve retention strap**, coupled with the **GripLock™** tank band and buckle system, provides a totally secure and hassle free experience. All this, and the state-of-the-art **i3 inflator**, make the Axiom i3 the top of the BC food chain.

Evolve – Experience Axiom i3



GripLock™ tank band

i3 Control system

AQUA  LUNG®

www.aqualung.com/uk

SCUBALAB TEST EXTRA

FINNSUB FLY 13D RESCUE COMFORT | £549 (€751.16)



Mark Evans: FinnSub has been making waves thanks to its amazingly bright dive lights (we have a 3000 Short currently in Long Term Test), but its range of wing-style BCDs are also garnering plenty of positive PR from around the world.

I took the Fly 13D with a Comfort harness and aluminium backplate in its bright-red Rescue colour scheme to Bonaire on assignment with Kid's Sea Camp, as this set-up makes it ideal as a lightweight travel jacket.

The wing is a donut shape, and while being relatively small and compact, it provides plenty of lift for coping with an 11-litre aluminium tank (it can handle up to a 15-litre tank, according to FinnSub). The outer layer is made from Cordura 2000, which means it is incredibly resilient to wear and tear. The power inflator is quite a chunky, heavy-weight unit which sits nicely in your hand and delivers the gas into the wing in a very controllable manner.

The Comfort harness is well-named, as it is very comfortable in use. The wide padded shoulder straps spread the weight of the tank and lead evenly across your body, and I particularly liked the design of the shoulder strap adjuster, which could easily be tightened or released, but doesn't completely come apart as an added safety function. The test wing came with the aluminium backplate, which is ideal for travelling with, but a stainless steel version is available for the same price for those diving in more-temperate waters where weight is not such an issue. Dual tank straps keep the tank firmly in position.

The Fly 13D is also equipped with a compact integrated weight system, and with each pocket capable of holding 5kg, it is perfect for use in the tropics. The pockets are securely held in place with a pinch-clip, so will only come out when you want them to. In the water, the Fly 13D Rescue Comfort was a joy to use. I liked the uncluttered

nature of the front of the system, and the way that the donut wing fitted around the tank. It held me in a nice horizontal trim position, but equally allowed me to twist and turn into whatever orientation I needed to be in while taking a photograph. The weight pockets sit well on either side of your body, and are capable of holding more than enough weight for use with even a 5mm full-suit.

The vivid red Rescue colour scheme certainly stands out, but combined with the alloy-blue Fourth Element Xenos wetsuit I also had on test, it made me look like a superhero - I kept getting called Spiderman and Superman! If this is all a bit much for you, you can chop and change at no extra cost - Rescue harness and black wing? No problem. Black harness with Rescue wing? That's fine too. Or you can go all black if you want to be a bit more stealthy!

www.finnsb.com



EXCLUSIVE
PACKAGES
AVAILABLE

MASKS & SNORKELS



www.DEEPBLUEDIVE.com

DEEPBLUE
DIVE CENTRE
www.deepbluedive.com



Great Summer memories, looking forward to the winter...
...Come in from the Cold

*Paul Rose diving in the Arctic with
The National Geographic Pristine Seas 'Last Ice' project.
Paul is using an Ri 2-100 with PBB Extreme base layers.*



Image courtesy Dave McAloney

Custom

Ri1-100
CCN

Ri2-100
FLEX

MSF500
TECHNICAL BLACK
FLEX



www.othree.co.uk | 0044 (0) 1305 822820 | Osprey Quay Portland Dorset UK DT5 1BL

SCUBALAB LONG TERM

ZEAGLE EXPRESS

Zeagle make a range of durable, robust BCDs, but the problem is that most of them are quite heavyweight units, so not ideal as a travelling BCD in this world of ever-increasing baggage charges. The Express was designed from the outset as a lightweight travel jacket, and it only tips the scales at 2.3kg.

A clever design means that one size fits all, and it has plenty of padding on the straps and backpack. The 19kg-lift bladder is perfect for warm-water use, and it can be equipped with either Zeagle's new weight pouches or the tried-and-tested Ripcord system.

As with other Zeagle jackets, the inflator unscrews from the corrugated hose allowing easy bladder flushing with a garden hose, and the Express has Zeagle's lifetime warranty.

Mark Evans, www.zeagle.com



INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	SEPTEMBER 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£236
NUMBER OF DIVES	0
TIME IN WATER	0 HRS 0 MINS

OCEANIC VEO 1



The Veo 1 was designed from the outset to be easy and simple to use, giving you the essential basics for a safe dive but keeping the cost down by leaving out some of the extra features of higher-priced Oceanic computers.

However, it still has Oceanic's dual algorithm technology, which means if you are wearing this as a budget back-up with another brand of computer, you will be able to make it closely match the primary unit. And at only £135,

it makes a fine back-up as well as a main computer in its own right.

Mark Evans
www.oceanicuk.com

INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	AUGUST 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£135
NUMBER OF DIVES	2
TIME IN WATER	2 HRS 10 MINS

APEKS LIFELINE 30-METRE SPOOL

The Apeks spool has proved to be a joy to use, both in this country and abroad. The chunky aluminium construction means it has a nice heft to it in your hand, the large hole is big enough for the thickest gloved fingers, and the vibrant colour of the line shows up in the most-grim conditions.



INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	MAY 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£60
NUMBER OF DIVES	34
TIME IN WATER	32 HRS 45 MINS

Mark Evans, www.apeks.co.uk

AQUALUNG PRO

Our test jacket has still not arrived from the factory yet, but it is due in the end of this month, so we will be able to get it wet and report on its performance in the next issue. Going by the looks - and the fact we have tested its higher-priced siblings - it is probably safe to say that the materials will be hard-wearing and durable as well as good-looking.



INFORMATION	
DATE ACQUIRED	JULY 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£245
NUMBER OF DIVES	0
TIME IN WATER	0 HRS 0 MINS

Mark Evans
www.aqualung.com



SUUNTO
ZOOP
DIVE COMPUTER

INSTORE • ONLINE • MOBILE

www.DEEPBLUEDIVE.com

URSUIT HEAVY LIGHT KEVLAR BDS



You don't know what you've got till it's gone... Well I never anticipated using such an adage for a drysuit, but boy have I been taking the wonders of the Ursuit for granted! I thought I'd zip myself back into my old neoprene number for a dive. Urgh! Horrendous leak aside, the comfort, movement and general ease of use just didn't compare. Both suits similar in price, too. I'll be packing the Ursuit for my Hollis Explorer course in Malta!

Will Harrison
www.liquidsports.co.uk

INFORMATION

DATE ACQUIRED	MARCH 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£1,600
NUMBER OF DIVES	14
TIME IN WATER	13 HRS 45 MINS

SCUBAPRO MANTIS M1



The Mantis has been back in diving mode after being bashed about on the jetski in the summer holidays, with back-to-back trips to the Farne Islands to play with the seals and Oman to check out the Eurodivers' operation in Muscat. With an extender strap included in the box, it will easily fit around the fattest drysuit wrist, so is the perfect partner for UK and warm-water diving. It is so shiny even the seals took a liking to it and tried to snaffle it off my wrist...

Mark Evans
www.scubapro.co.uk

INFORMATION

DATE ACQUIRED	MAY 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£369
NUMBER OF DIVES	19
TIME IN WATER	18 HRS 30 MINS

FINN SUB 3000 SHORT

The Finn Sub has accompanied me on a few more dives, and it behaved impeccably, but it has now gone off to FinnSub so that they can check the torch itself and the charger to see if we can get to the bottom of the early 'off' issue, so by next issue we will know what's what. The torch is robust and so is the Goodman handle, and the charger is a chunky unit as well, but I like the fact that it all comes in a nifty drybag for storage and transport. It is made from a durable material, so you know it will keep your precious dive light safe and sound until it is time to get it wet.

Mark Evans, www.finnsb.com



INFORMATION

DATE ACQUIRED	APRIL 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£549
NUMBER OF DIVES	27
TIME IN WATER	25 HRS 45 MINS

HOLLIS EXPLORER eSCR

That's it, the end of the six-month trial with the Hollis Explorer Sport Rebreather.

I have certainly put some miles on the test unit, hauling it up to Scotland to dive Scapa Flow and taking it on the plane with me to Egypt, as well as various dives at other locations around the UK. We have experienced a few minor software glitches, but by and large, the unit has performed absolutely faultlessly throughout the test period. It is easy to set-up, easy to dive, gives you much longer in the water than a single cylinder dive, and is better for marine life interactions due to the lack of bubbles. Expect to see more of these at dive sites near you - it's the future.

Mark Evans
www.hollis.com



END OF
TERM

INFORMATION

DATE ACQUIRED	MARCH 2015
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE	£3,995
NUMBER OF DIVES	45
TIME IN WATER	44 HRS 25 MINS





Caroline offering some feedback to a student

Learning from the **EXPERTS**

GAVIN ANDERSON heads to Portugal to witness firsthand photography and videography courses run by **NICK AND CAROLINE ROBERTSON-BROWN AND JEFF GOODMAN**

Photographs by **GAVIN ANDERSON**

Ever thought about learning to take better photographs, or make a more-professional video, and learn about animal behaviour at the same time? Well, Hidden Depths (www.hiddendepthsdivetours.com) - working with the Subnauta Dive Centre in Portugal - recently organised a week with two brilliant companies, Frogfish Photography and Jeff Goodman Videography, that offers holidaymakers the opportunity to do just that. Nick and Caroline Robertson-Brown are probably already known to many of you as they contribute regular articles and travel pieces to Sport Diver, and created their own Wining and Diving tour, which I'm sure many readers, including myself, are very envious of! The husband-and-wife team are a great double act. Both have degrees in biology, Caroline having a Masters in Animal Behaviour, while Nick, an ex-RAF man, has great life experience and taught science in a Manchester school for six years. They've also worked in the Caribbean together running a dive centre, then a dive shop in Manchester for six years, during which they set up Frogfish Photography, which outgrew the dive centre. I was keen to meet them and get to see for myself how they worked.

I arrived on what was the penultimate day of their course. Nick was in the middle of critiquing one of his client's shots on a large TV screen on the wall linked to his laptop in the luxury of a comfy chair in the dive centre's briefing room. The shot was a tompot blenny and composition was being discussed. "Where do your eyes immediately go when looking at this photo?" he asks. The tompot's face and eyes is the reply. "That's great, that's a good start. Are there any distracting elements? Well, perhaps the hydroids here are a little distracting but they don't affect the overall picture too much. The rule of thirds actually is working well here, but it doesn't mean all our shots have to be taken this way. There are times that a tompot in the centre will work well, or even slightly off centre - it all depends on the feeling that you would like to produce. For most instances, a balanced photo is going to work best, we need to study the visual weights and make sure we have them placed around the photo so that they weigh each other out." After the critiquing and a bit more processing work, we all retreated to the bar next door and over a couple of glasses of well-chosen wine, I chatted to Nick and Caroline about their courses and what drives them.



WHERE THE ENVIRONMENT DEMANDS APEKS COMMANDS



Image © APEKS. All Rights Reserved

LIFELINE SPOOLS

Inspired by technical diving and versatile enough to be used in a range of diving applications, the new LifeLine spools from Apeks feature easy to grip flared sides to improve deployment and winding. Made from tough, anodised aluminium with high visibility line for low light conditions and with a super tough leader and swivel as standard, the LifeLine comes in three sizes and is complemented by a range of line markers and cookies.



Available three sizes:
15 metres, 30 metres and 45 metres.



Easy-grip design



Swivel leader



Includes a marine grade 316 stainless-steel bolt snap

www.apekssdiving.com | [#apekssdiving](https://twitter.com/apekssdiving) | [apekssdiving](https://www.facebook.com/apekssdiving)

BEYOND TECHNICAL



The Shearwater NERD (Near Eye Remote Display) is the first technical dive computer with a display mounted on the diver's rebreather mouthpiece, capable of 3 cell monitoring.

FLAWLESS SERVICE
AT THE CHEAPEST PRICES!

Tel: + 44(0) 1933 681255

www.nakedat90.com



LOOK INTO THE
FUTURE OF DIVING

SHEARWATER
NERD

Near • Eye • Remote • Display



"Keeping everything the same is important, as not only does the creature being filmed need to look the same, but also the model or actor in the scene, too"

Jeff Goodman keeping things lighthearted



Critique time for a student



It's obvious they are super teachers and have all the knowledge to include all the normal stuff you'd expect in a photo course, such as controlling light with aperture, shutter speed, ISO and exposure compensation, looking at depth of field, zoom facility and focusing options, autofocus, camera set-up and camera care, but there are also sections on how to deal with backscatter issues, learning about RAW files, histograms and white balance, but my favourite part is module number six - Animal Behaviour.

Caroline spent two years supervising students in the Caribbean during their Masters courses. She and Nick are passionate about the marine environment. Learning about what your subject is doing, or about to do, is really important in getting an interesting or unusual shot, because if you know your subject you can anticipate what might or even will happen. Nick and Caroline are also both into responsible behaviour underwater. Nick actually wrote a whole chapter on the subject in his book, *Underwater Photography Art and Techniques*. It's very important to respect your environment, the animals in it and those you are working with. If you can be patient and wait for an animal to come to you, you're going to get a far better photograph. If you think about it, it's common sense and it's the same approach you need when photographing wildlife on land as it is underwater, only underwater you don't have so much time! The wine flowed and the food came and went, but being conscious we had an early start we all finished up before it got too late!

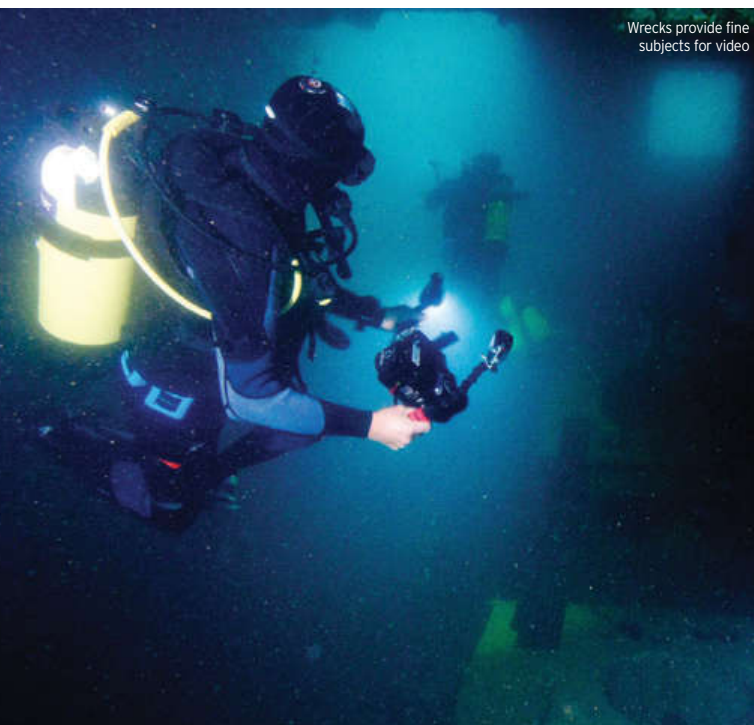
The next day we all made it on to the boat, there was Jeff and his client, and Nick and Caroline with theirs on their last day of diving. Nick and Caroline covered their module eight - photography in low visibility - which was just as well, as we had barely three metres on our first dive and not much better on dive two. It was so bad I wasn't able to get any descent photographs of them teaching their pupils underwater! Apparently, it was proving to be a particularly poor year for visibility in the Algarve. Still, what's great about the diving here is there are plenty of subjects, so we put on macro lenses and went hunting for nudibranchs!

There is no stone left unturned when learning with Nick and Caroline, so much so they offer catch-up days or weekends back in the UK, either in a pool or a quarry, and are always on the end of a phone for their clients. It would have been nice to have spent more time with them, but they had to head home and so I turned my attention from photo to video and hung out with Jeff Goodman for a few days before I went home myself. Jeff is cool, laid back and looks much younger than his 60 years. As we chat he tells me he still surfs almost daily and, when he's not on the water, is underneath running one of his very popular Go Pro courses. An award-winning TV cameraman on land and underwater, he has recently finished his book *A Guide to Underwater Wildlife Video and Editing*, a must if you want to really get into this area and a good reference to have while on one of his courses. Like Nick and Caroline, passion oozes from Jeff and he loves sharing his knowledge. The key to making a good video, he explains, is being able to stay with and get to know your subject for as long as possible. In this way, you're building a relationship with your subject and getting to understand it, which means you can film it in a new, exciting way, or capture something different from the norm, something unique. Like Nick and Caroline, over the years Jeff has become a real animal behaviour expert - all those hours observing different animals through the viewfinder have made him a bit of a master. He is often one step ahead of his subject, correctly anticipating or second guessing what it will do next. His love and respect of the marine world shows and his courses aim to help clients learn the art of good underwater video production while at the same time realising the incredible wealth and diversity of our planet's marine life. Twice nominated for a BAFTA Award, cameraman Jeff - who won the Montana Festival Best Series Director/ Cameraman - has been responsible for many great wildlife TV moments,



In the editing suite

"If you can be patient and wait for an animal to come to you, you're going to get a far better end photograph"



Wrecks provide fine subjects for video



Displaying different lighting techniques



Video student goes in for the close up

READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?

If you fancy joining Jeff, or Nick and Caroline, on one of their courses, check out their website and give them a call.

Frogfish Photography - www.frogfishphotography.com

Jeff Goodman - www.jeffgoodman.co.uk

including the brilliant sequence of a mimic octopus caught for the BBC. He has had 30-plus years experience in wildlife and underwater filming for not only the BBC, but Channel 4, National Geographic, Discovery and Animal Planet, just to name a few. Over those years, he has become an ambassador for our marine world.

Over the next couple of dives, I watched Jeff and his client Bob Willis (not the fast bowler!) build a relationship with an octopus they nick-named Fred, capturing lots of great sequences of behaviour. Octopus are intelligent and seem to enjoy being film stars and playing cat and mouse with the camera. It reminded me of a dive I spent with a cheeky mantis shrimp once, in which the shrimp seemed to enjoy stalking and the retreating last minute as I tried to photograph it for over 40 minutes.

Lots of patience and good buoyancy control are essential in getting good behaviour on video. It's also important to think about the story and ensure you have every sequence possible captured. After two morning dives and a quick lunch break, it was time for the other part of making a good video - editing. Jeff and Bob settled down in one of Subnautica's classrooms and started to stitch their sequences together. Editing techniques, programmes and how to add effects such as fades, text music and narration, are all discussed. Jeff likes to use Adobe Premier, which is a very capable and affordable programme and I was amazed at how quickly their clips came together. Over the next couple of days, various things were learnt and discussed, and one that jumps out to me is continuity. One of the dives, Bob had changed his mask and head band. Jeff hadn't noticed till the return to the classroom later in the day. Keeping everything the same is important, as not only does the creature being filmed need to look the same, but also the model or actor in the scene, too. ■

algarve.
europe's
most famous
secret



TURISMO DE
PORTUGAL

algarve

visitalgarve.pt | algarvepromotion.pt



GET MORE FROM YOUR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

CRITTER HUNTING ANEMONES

Continuing his search for the reef's hidden beasts,
DR RICHARD SMITH gets to know the inhabitants of anemones

Photographs by DR RICHARD SMITH / WWW.OCEANREALMIMAGES.COM

Anyone who has dived a coral reef is more than likely to have seen an anemone. These colourful invertebrates are like no land-living creature you'll find, but we divers are used to that. They are, in fact, closely related to jellyfish and corals, and like the former are soft-bodied and can pack quite a punch. Resembling a coral, they are fixed to the rock and have an array of tentacles that surround the mouth. For any creature able to withstand these stinging tentacles, anemones make an excellent home. Being long-lived, their residents needn't worry about imminent eviction from this safe haven either.

Anemones protect themselves with nematocysts, which comprises of a poison barb attached to a thread that both live within tiny pockets covering the anemone's tentacles. Like many of their relatives, anemones have tiny symbiotic algae living within their cells. This, however, means that they can become stressed by unseasonably warm water, causing the algae to jump ship, in a process known as bleaching. Due to the presence of these light-loving algae, most anemones are found in the top 20m of the water, although in very clear waters, or those with nutrient upwelling, they can be found as deep as 40m.

The association between an anemone and their residents is a classic example of mutualism. A mutualistic interaction is one where both parties benefit in some way from the relationship; clearly the stinging cells of the anemone also help protect the animals that live with it. Conversely, for their part, the crabs, shrimp and fishes that inhabit the anemone contribute a source of nutrition through their waste products. This vital fertiliser allows the symbiotic algae to flourish: anemones with anemonefish grow three times faster than those without them. The survival rate of anemones is also much higher when they're protected from their own predators by pugnacious anemonefish.

COMMON ANEMONE-ASSOCIATED ANIMALS

Anemonefish | Length 10-14cm - Anemonefish are some of the most well-known of reef creatures thanks to Disney's main character from Finding Nemo. These small fish are always found living alongside an anemone and remain with the same one their whole life, having located it initially by smell as a tiny fry. Upon arrival, they acclimate their skin's mucus layer to their specific anemone, which then prevents the nematocysts from firing.

Having first begun to inhabit anemones several million years ago, anemonefish quickly diversified into the 30 species now found across the Indo-Pacific. Between them they inhabit ten species of tropical giant anemones and up to nine different anemonefish species can be found in a given area. This habitat sharing is possible as they each use their home in a slightly different way. Sometimes it's even possible to find two anemonefish species sharing an anemone due to this niche partitioning.

3 HOURS
FROM MOST UK
AIRPORTS

DIVE MALTA, GOZO & COMINO

MORE TO SEE. MORE TO DO. SO MUCH MORE TO REMEMBER.

THREE ISLANDS OFFERING GREAT DIVING

AMPLE CHOICE OF SITES FOR RECREATIONAL & TECHNICAL DIVING

MALTA - DIVE CENTRES

Aquaventure	www.aquaventuremalta.com	info@aquaventuremalta.com	+356	2152 2141
Blue Waters Dive Cove	www.divebluwaters.com	info@divebluwaters.com	+356	2156 5626
Buddies Dive Cove	www.buddiesmalta.com	dive@buddiesmalta.com	+356	2757 6266
Dawn Diving	www.dawndiving.com	info@dawndiving.com	+356	9943 1703
Divewise	www.divewise.com.mt	info@divewise.com.mt	+356	2135 6441
Maltaqua	www.maltaqua.com	dive@maltaqua.com	+356	2157 1111
Ocean Mysteries Diving	www.oceanmysteriesdiving.com	info@oceanmysteriesdiving.com	+356	2152 2220
OrangeShark H2O Diving Centres	www.orangeshark.eu	info@orangeshark.eu	+356	2152 1329
Seashell Dive Centre	www.seashell-divecove.com	info@seashell-divecove.com	+356	2152 1062

GOZO - DIVE CENTRES

Atlantis Dive Centre	www.atlantisgozo.com	info@atlantisgozo.com	+356	2219 0000
Gozo Aqua Sports	www.gozoaquasports.com	dive@gozoaquasports.com	+356	2156 3037
Moby Dives	www.mobydivesgozo.com	info@mobydivesgozo.com	+356	2156 4429
St. Andrew's Divers Cove	www.gozodive.com	standrew@gozodive.com	+356	2155 1301
Scuba Kings	www.scuba-kings.com	gozodiveschool@hotmail.com	+44	0121288 7385
Utina Diving College	www.utina-diving.com	utina@gozomail.com	+356	2155 0514

COMINO - DIVE CENTRES

Diveshack Comino Dive Centre	www.divemalta.com	info@divemalta.com	+356	2133 8558
------------------------------	--	--	------	-----------

CALL TODAY TO BOOK YOUR UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE



Diver with red and black anemonefish

“Anemonefish have a complex life cycle, with the largest individual in the group being the female and the next largest the reproductively active male”



Glass anemone shrimp are only found on certain types of anemone

Anemonefish are among the longest-lived of coral reef fishes, with individuals upwards of 30 years recorded (estimates indicate they may live for more than double this). Thirty years is twice the age of any other damselfish and six times greater than expected for a fish of their size, and it's likely their association with the anemone fosters such longevity.

Anemonefish have a complex life cycle, with the largest individual in the group being the female and the next largest the reproductively active male. All others simply bide their time until the female dies and her bullying stops. Without this repression, the male changes sex and becomes the group's reproductive female. The next eldest in sequence will subsequently become the reproductively active male. It's funny how none of this made it into the storyline of Finding Nemo!

Where to look - On many reefs, it's hard to find an anemone that doesn't have resident anemonefish. If you want to hone in on an anemone amid the bustle of a coral reef, the best way is to look out for anemonefish feeding on plankton high in the water column above their home. Anemonefish aren't found in the Atlantic, but lots of other creatures do reside in the anemones there. Even colder waters, like those around the UK, have their own anemones and beasties.

How to photograph - Timing is important in getting a good anemonefish image; whether capturing a fortuitously nice composition of the fish or behaviour. They lay their eggs on a hard substrate adjacent to their home, making for a nice behaviour shot. Magnificent anemones occasionally ball up, effectively limiting the fishes to a tiny area at the top of the anemone. This is a great opportunity to include the colourful mantle of the anemone in your image.

Porcelain crabs | Length 3cm - There are several species of tropical porcelain crabs that associate with anemones. The family to which they belong, in fact, contains several hundred species. Their name comes from the brittle nature of the shell and propensity to shed limbs while escaping from



Juvenile three-spot dascyllus also share anemones

BIOGRAPHY

Richard Smith, a British underwater photographer and writer, aspires to promote an appreciation for the ocean's inhabitants and raise awareness of marine conservation issues through his images. A marine biologist by training, Richard's pioneering research on the biology and conservation of pygmy seahorses, led to the first PhD on these enigmatic fish. Over the past decade, Richard's photographs and marine life focused features have appeared in a wide variety of publications around the world. Richard leads marine life expeditions where the aim is for participants to get more from their diving and photography by learning about the marine environment: www.OceanRealmlImages.com

"As always, the more shy creatures such as porcelain crabs will appreciate a slow approach and, if given space, will continue to feed as you shoot away"



House-sharing anemonefish and shrimp



Banggai cardinalfish swarm around anemones



False clown anemonefish in a bleached anemone

predators, although like a gecko's tail they can grow back over time.

Where to look - The porcelain crabs on anemones tend to be found in mated pairs, so if you see one it's worth having a look for a second. Like all porcelain crabs, they are filter feeders that comb the water column for plankton with bristled arms. For this reason, they are often found on the periphery of anemones.

How to photograph - I think the trick to photographing porcelain crabs is to just catch the filter feeding arms with light. It's very easy to miss these delicate structures, but if the light is just right they have a twinkle that can really make an image pop.

Shrimps | Length 2.5cm - Most anemones are covered in tiny shrimps. They are almost transparent and scurry around between the tentacles. As a result, the best place to photograph them is often on the colourful mantle of the anemone. Due to their transparency, it is also possible to see the tiny egg mass of a brooding female through her shell. Another often-overlooked job that these shrimps carry out is the cleaning of other reef fish. Particularly on the sandy slopes and muddy bottoms of muck dives, where cleaner wrasses are generally absent, an unusual array of fish employ their services. I have had these shrimps clean my own cuticles, and seen them removing parasites from pufferfish and even stingrays.

Hermit crab anemone crab | Length -1cm - One of the most astounding associations I've come across in nature is between an anemone and a porcelain crab. There is a species of porcelain crab that lives exclusively on the anemones that live on nocturnal hermit crabs. When the hermit crab out-grows its shell, it even takes its anemone with it, and their tiny

hitchhikers. I have so far seen them at several locations across Indonesia, but I'm sure their distribution is much wider than this, but has yet to be realised. These hermit crabs are quite large and they're rather speedy, so it takes some night dive photography skills to capture them.

Banggai cardinalfish | Length 6.5cm - As their name suggests, these stunning fish are from the Banggai Islands of Indonesia, which is a tiny group of islands covering an area the size of Devon and Cornwall. Due to their popularity in the aquarium trade they have been all but exterminated from the reefs in their natural habitat, and are listed as Endangered. However, an entrepreneurial fish catcher introduced a few of these fish into Lembeh Strait and western Bali, where feral populations have become established. Particularly when they're young, Banggai cardinals aggregate around anemones. It's yet to be determined whether this affects the other creatures that inhabit the anemones; nonetheless, they are beautiful fish and worthy of a closer look.

Photographing anemone-associated fauna

Photographing the creatures that inhabit anemones is quite straightforward; in fact, this is a great place to start your foray into macro photography. Anemonefish are very accommodating and you basically have a captive audience. The resulting images are usually very well received by divers and non-divers alike, giving some much-loved positive reinforcement to your photography in the early days. As always, the more shy creatures such as porcelain crabs will appreciate a slow approach and, if given space, will continue to feed as you shoot away. ■

FLOODING?

NOT WITH THIS ACTION CAMERA!

micro HD+™



PERMA Seal™
Never Leak Technology

32 GB + WiFi

Full HD videos, 13 megapixel photos, compact, shock resistant, 100% waterproof, completely sealed, external battery compartment and data transfer and even easy to use: the Micro HD+ action camera is the ideal companion for all your outdoor adventures! Share your photos - the built in Wi-Fi to connect with iOS or Android devices makes this camera especially fun to use. With the simple click of a button, download your photos and videos straight on to your smartphone or tablet.

RICH, COLOURFUL AND VIBRANT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS.

SeaLife®



SUBGEAR

KELDAN⁺

Advanced Lighting Technology



NEW

KELDAN Video 8M CRI

8000 lumen

5600 kelvin

5 power settings

Rated to 200 meters

Outstanding Color Rendering 96 (Ra)

Available from:

Cameras Underwater

Ocean Leisure Cameras

Underwater Visions

For Professionals Who Know The Difference

www.keldanlights.com

DIVE RITE

NOMAD

LTZ

SIDEMOUNT

evolving to provide superior performance

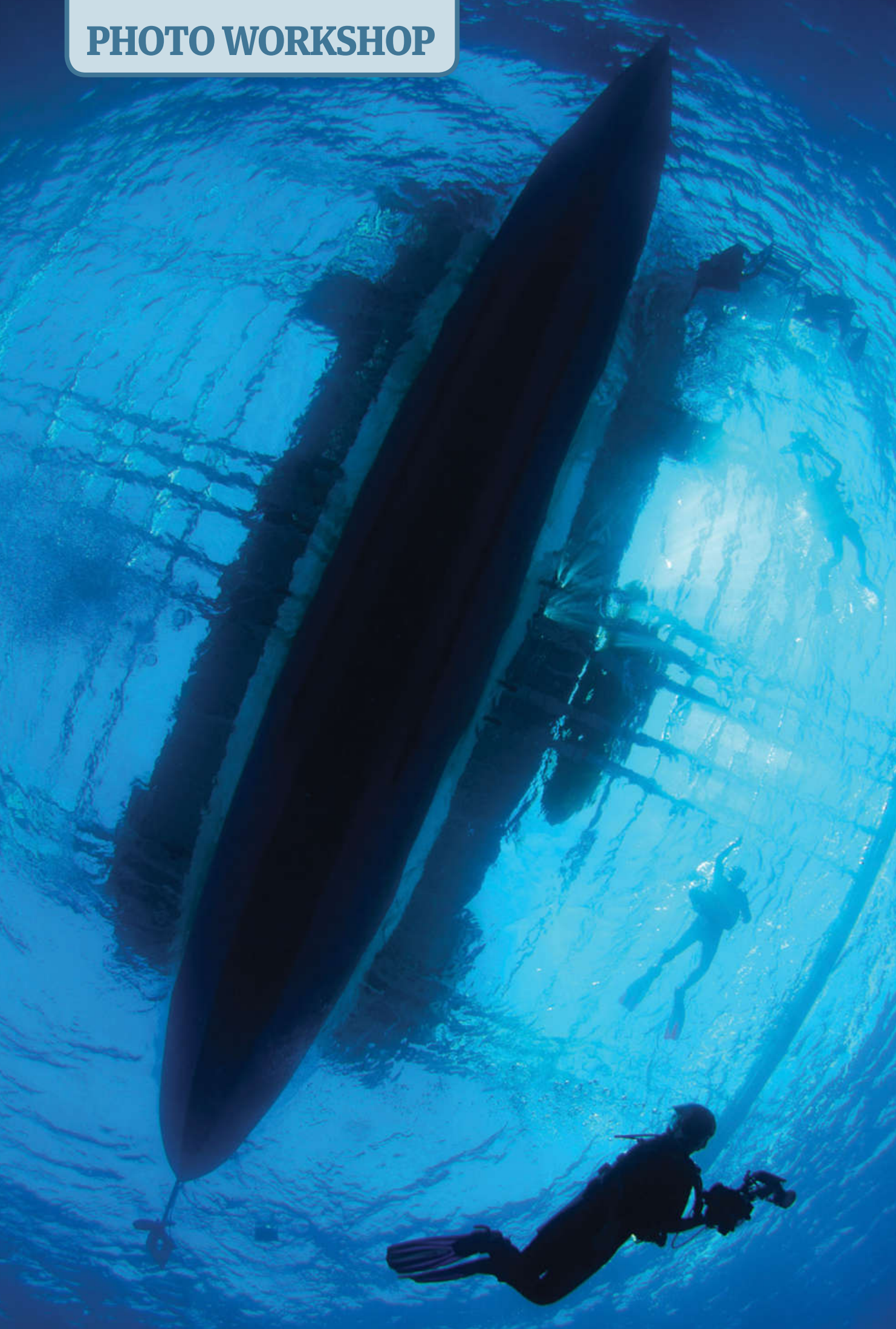
HUNTERPAC BCD

streamlined BCD excels in any kind of diving

WWW.SEA-SEA.COM



PHOTO WORKSHOP



ADVANCED COMPOSITION: NO COMPROMISE!

The compositional theme continues this month with an image of a simple silhouette. Towards the end of our photo-dive, I found myself beneath my dive boat in no more than 6m of water. The sun was high and bright overhead and the only way to avoid its intensity was to silhouette the sun behind the boat. My Tokina 10-17mm was at the full width of the lens and at this shallow depth I had little room in my viewfinder to accommodate the full length of the boat in the frame.

As it swung around on its mooring, the full intensity of the midday sun came into view and even with the highest camera settings possible I was unable to avoid extreme overexposure.

It was no help either when the movement of the boat at anchor shifted around its mooring and a small segment of the reef wall also came into view. In the beginning I thought to use the colours of the wall to frame the boat, but after reviewing my LCD on the back of my housing, the entire composition looked nothing short of abysmal.

I had no option other than to employ a degree of patience and, with this in mind, I took the decision to press the shutter only when the hull of the boat was, one, isolated well away from the reef wall together with, two, the sunburst being behind the boat and out of view.

What started as a simple silhouette was turning into weak composition and, by this time, the majority of my group had boarded, but then I noticed one late arrival (other than myself) swimming back to the ladder. I remained in-situ and hoped that my patience would be rewarded with a stylish swim past. Libby was in an ideal position, the boat was in silhouette and compositionally aligned on a strong diagonal. A simple shot but very effective. I reflected on this opportunity some time later and what came to mind was my total reluctance to try any other alternative composition, which I knew full well would not work anyway. I stuck to my original idea and achieved what I was after. The screen shot of frames (Fig 1) is an example to illustrate how the boat was moving around its mooring with a section of reef protruding



FIG 1 screen grab examples

above. Notice in the main image how clean and uncluttered the composition is once the reef wall was out of shot. ■

EQUIPMENT AND SETTINGS

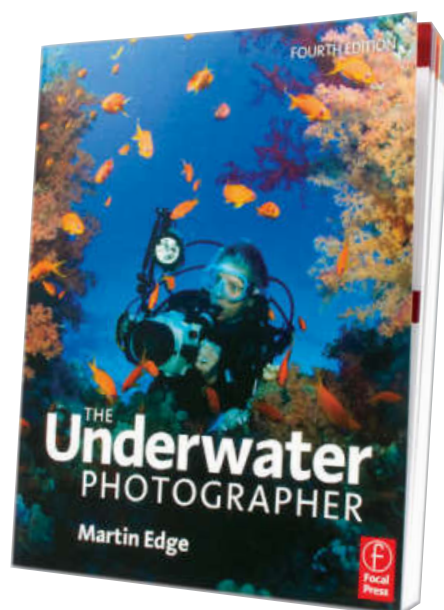
Nikon D7000 with Tokina 10-17mm, Nauticam housing, flashguns turned off. Aperture of f8 at 1/320th second shutter speed, ISO 200. Dumaguete, Philippines.

NEED GIFT IDEAS?

Martin runs one-day photo tuition courses designed for one, two or three persons. He promises to improve your photo skills by at least five years. Go to www.edgeunderwaterphotography.com for details or email Martin direct on martin@edgeunderwaterphotography.com

ABOUT MARTIN

Martin Edge was born in Staffordshire, England in 1955, where he grew up without any inclination towards diving or photography. Years later, he moved to the Dorset coastline and in 1977 it was here that he learnt to dive in the temperate waters of Weymouth and Portland. He had never had any particular interest or tuition in photography, but his desire to shoot pictures underwater grew into a passion bordering on an obsession. Frustrated by a lack of knowledge of camera equipment and how to best use it underwater, he set out to understand the 'mind's eye' of those underwater photographers whose work he most admired. Over the last 20 years he has done just that. Introduced, developed, motivated and mentored hundreds of underwater photographers, including many of the finest in the UK today.



SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR!

The fourth edition of Martin's book, The Underwater Photographer, is now available. For a signed copy, phone **01202 887611** or email martin@edgeunderwaterphotography.com

SCUBALAB

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY WHAT'S NEW

SEA DRAGON PHOTO-VIDEO LIGHTS | £125-£439 (€170.74-€599.63)



SEA DRAGON 2500F (SRP: £439)

The newest Sea Dragon UW light delivers 2500 true colour lumens in a smooth, even 120° wide beam. This revolutionary COB LED array technology produces a 90 CRI (colour rendering index) that mimics natural daylight. Most other LEDs have 70 CRI, missing wavelengths of the visible light spectrum. One button control for easy operation, and three brightness levels - 100%, 50% and 25%. Sixty-minute burn time at full power and constant brightness, and depth-rated to 60m.

SEA DRAGON 2500SF (SRP: £439)

The Sea Dragon Dual Beam combines power and versatility into one compact light. The 2100 lumen 100° wide beam is ideal for shooting still images and video, or viewing a wide area. Easy, one-button operation switches the beam from flood to an 800 lumen 15° spot for longer reach and pointing out sea life. Four brightness levels - 100% Flood, 50% Flood, 25% Flood and 100% Spot. Sixty-minute burn time at full power and constant brightness. Corrosion-proof metal light head for heat dispersion and durability, and removable 25W Li-Ion battery w/ charger and

international plug adapters included.

The 2500F and the 2100SF are compatible with every underwater camera when used with accessories from the Sealife Flex-Connect-System, such as trays, the Flex-Arm, grips, handles and adapters.

SEA DRAGON 650S AND 650F (SRP: £125 EACH)

The compact and ergonomic 650 Spot is a UW light equipped with a long range beam. The 650 Flood has a 120° beam angle, offering the ideal illumination for photos and videos as well as a wide viewing angle during diving. Three light modes: Full power 650 lumen, half power 325 lumen, emergency signal. Includes Y-S mount and three mounts for connecting light to GoPro, AquaPod or housing cold-shoe. Depth-rated to 100m. Safety pressure release valve relieves internal pressure built-up caused by damaged battery. Burn Time: 60 minutes with CR123 batteries, 100 minutes with Tenenergy 18650 Li-ion battery (2600 mAh/3.7V) at full power (120 and 200 minutes respectively at 50% power). Anodized aluminium head with rubber-armoured/polycarbonate body.

www.subgear.com

Get Your PADI at **DIVE** 2015

Visit the PADI stand PV1 in the PADI Village
for everything you need to know about PADI

- Not dived in a while?
Ask us how to **ReActivate™** and get diving again!
- Receive a **PADI gift** when you book onto a PADI course with an exhibiting PADI Dive Centre during the show*
- Bring a friend to try diving in the Try Dive Pool and they can claim a **PADI gift**!
- Go digital with the awesome **PADI App**! Download the App on the stand and claim a **PADI gift**!
- Want to turn your passion into a full or part time career? Come to our “**Go Pro with PADI**” presentation (12:55 on Saturday and Sunday at Oceans Theatre 1)
- PADI Pro **Member Forum** on Saturday (15:30) and Sunday (11:00) in Concourse Suite 20
- Find out about the latest **Project AWARE** campaigns

2-4-1 Ticket offers for New PADI Divers and PADI Pros!**

If you completed a PADI Discover Scuba Diving Experience or a PADI Open Water Diver course on/after 1st November 2014, or if you are a PADI Professional, you're eligible for the 2-4-1 DIVE 2015 ticket offer. Remember to bring appropriate ID to the Show. Tickets may be purchased on the day or online in advance at <http://bit.ly/PADI-DIVE2015>

*Subject to stock availability.

Applies to PADI courses booked with exhibiting PADI Dive Centres during the show.

**2-4-1 is not valid with other ticket promotions.

The two tickets will be charged at £13.50. Please input “2” when asked how many tickets are required during the purchase process. Please input “PADI2-4-1” in the Promo Code Box

All ticket offers are valid only when appropriate ID and proof of certification is shown on entry to the show.



READERS PHOTO COMPETITION

WIN A GOPRO

GOPRO HERO RRP £99.99

SPONSORED BY
cameras
UNDERWATER



Blue Anemone, by Marc Vand den Broeck

In March 2015, I travelled to the Philippines. I was staying in the resort Buceo Anilao. I was particularly interested in this place for the macro and muck diving. That this place would be as good as Lembeh Strait (Sulawesi) was certainly true. The many critters that I have seen here I had never seen before. The night diving at Secret Bay was especially spectacular.

This photo was taken on the dive site Anilao Pier. A very sandy area, there was not much to see, but I ended up taking one of my best photos. While I was taking the photo, my buddy Abdul from Saudi Arabia took a photo of me.

I have been diving since 1992. The camera and lights I use are Olympus E-PL 3 plus Olympus PEN PT-EPO5L with Greenforce lights. I have been taking photographs underwater for about ten years.

cameras
UNDERWATER
WWW.CAMERASUNDERWATER.CO.UK
TEL: 01404812277

TO ENTER UPLOAD YOUR PICTURES TO
WWW.SPORTDIVER.CO.UK/GALLERY

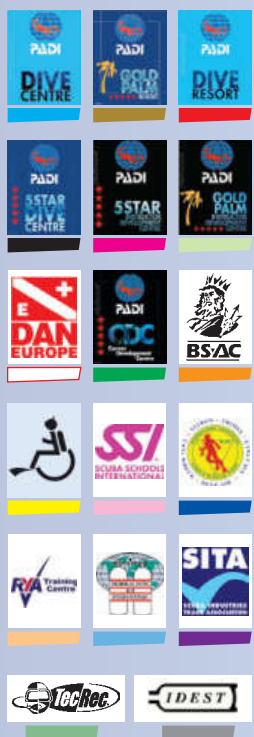
Bring some colour to your photography



See us at
DIVE
2015
NEC, Birmingham
24/25 October

**Cameras
UNDERWATER**
tel: 01404812277
www.camerasunderwater.co.uk

DIRECTORY KEY



SHOP KEY

OSS.....Onsite servicing
OST.....Onsite testing
BS.....Testing to British Standards

OVERSEAS ABBREVIATIONS

ACC.....Accommodation
AIP.....All inclusive package
AT.....Airport transfers
AYRD.....All year round diving
BH.....Boat hire
CAOS.....Compressed air onsite
CH.....Car hire
EA.....Environment activities
EH.....Equipment hire
ESI.....English speaking instructors
FCF.....Families catered for
LB.....Liveaboards
NDCF.....Non-divers catered for
OWS.....Other watersports
TD.....Tech diving
UWP.....Underwater photography

ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE

DIVESTYLE

DIVESTYLE Unit A
Bridge Farm,
Reading Road,
Arborfield,
Berkshire, RG2 9HT

Tel: 0118 976 1729
Fax: 0118 926 9616

Email: info@divestyle.co.uk

Website: www.divestyle.co.uk

Opening Hours: M, T, T, F 10:00-18:00 W 10:00-20:00 S 10:00 - 17:00. Air To 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC. Nitrox, National Geographic, EH, ESI, TD, EA, FCF, AYRD. PADI IDC centre, Nitrox, Trimix, equipment retail, PADI, SSI, BSAC, EFR, DSAT, TDI, rebreather friendly, Family friendly, child friendly, kids parties (4 weeks notice).



CORNWALL

KENACK DIVING

Sea Acres Holiday Park,
Kennack Sands, Helston,
Cornwall TR12 7LT

Tel: 07816 903260

Email: mail@kennackdiving.co.uk

Website: www.kennackdiving.co.uk

Opening Hours: 09.00-18.00
Air to 232 Bar. PADI 5★ Dive Resort. EH, AYRD, UWP, CAOS. PADI Courses from Bubblemaker to Assistant Instructor, specialties & guided dives all with friendly local instructors. Equipment Hire, Heated indoor pool, on site, accommodation available.



CORNISH DIVING SCHOOL

Bar Road, Falmouth
Cornwall TR11 4BN
Tel: 07885 771282 &
07779 445851

Email: info@cornishdivingschool.co.uk

Website: www.cornishdivingschool.co.uk

Opening Hours: 09.00-17.30

Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC. Boat Dives. Novice-Instructor. Dive Shop. Shore diving. Escorted Dives. Onsite Pool. Friendly Helpful Staff. Suit Repairs. DSD. Watersports. Snorkeling. EH, ESI, AYRD, UWP, CAOS, FCF, NDCF.



DERBYSHIRE

CHESTERFIELD ADVENTURE CENTRE

Wheatbridge Road, Off
DockWall, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire, S40 2AB

Tel: 01246 245408

Email: info@divenut.co.uk

Website: www.divenut.co.uk

Opening hours: Tues-Sat 10am-6pm Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC, OSS, BS, EH. Full range of courses from beginner to instructor. Equipment sales, dive club, group holidays. Nitrox, Poseidon rebreather sales & training. Easy parking. 3 pool nights.



ESSEX

DIVERSE SCUBA

Ye Olde Plough House Motel,
Brentwood Road,
Bulphan,
Essex, RM14 3SR
Tel/Fax: 01375 892444

Mob: 07814 570165

Email: jeanne-marie@diverse-scuba.co.uk

Website: www.diverse-scuba.co.uk

Opening Hours: Office & Shop: Monday to Thursday 10.30am - 7pm. Saturday 10am to 2pm. Training pool: 6pm to 9.30pm. Closed Friday, Sunday & Bank Holidays. Our own On Site Pool, Air to 300 Bar, PADI 5★ IDC. OSS, EH, On Site Pool FCF, Acc, Restaurant Facilities. Complete range of PADI courses available, from Discover Scuba through to Instructor, with resident course director, Full range of specialties, classroom. Dive shop. Social events and holidays.



KENT

DIVE MACHINE

Unit 11 Orchard Business Centre,
Sanderson Way,
Tonbridge,
Kent

TN9 1QF

Tel: 01732 773553

Fax: 01732 773663

Website: www.divemachine.com

Email: robert@divemachine.com

Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 09.30-17.30, Weds 09.30-19.00. Air to 300 bar, nitrox, trimix, idest. PADI CDC, PADI Courses from beginner to instructor. IANTD, Nitrox. Specialties: Enriched air, Dry suit, Photographer, Deep, Night, Underwater navigator, wreck, Oxygen first aid, DAN 02, Boat, Equipment and Drift. Authorised dealer for most leading mfrs. Large display area. Classrooms. Large free car park. Professional, friendly service & advice. Regulator Services. Suit repairs. Holidays abroad and in the UK.



LONDON

AQUANAUT SCUBA & SNORKELLING CENTRE

34 Coombe Road,
Kingston Upon
Thames, Surrey,
KT2 7AG

Tel: 0208 546 8882

Email: info@aquanautscuba.co.uk

Website: www.aquanautscuba.co.uk

Opening Hours: Monday - 11am-6pm, Tuesday - 11am-6pm, Wednesday - 11am-6pm, Thursday 11am - 7pm, Friday - 11am-6pm, Saturday - 10am - 6pm, Sunday - by appointment. Nitrox & Air to 300bar, 5★ IDC Centre / IDEST and BSAC Centre. SITA member. OSS OST BS CAOS EH TD. Courses from beginner to instructor, Fully stocked dive shop with excellent purchasing advice, Friendly and very active dive club with UK and overseas trips and social.



MIDDLESEX

G & H DIVING SERVICES LTD

Unit 1, Willow House,
River Gardens,
N Feltham Trading Estate,
TW14 0RD.

Tel: 020 8751 3771 / 020 8890 3302

Fax: 020 8751 2591

E-mail: gerryhassell@gheng.com

Website: www.gheng.com

Opening Hours: 8.30 - 5.30 Mon to Friday. 8.30 - 12 noon Sat.

Air to 300 Bar. BSAC, TDI, SDI & PSA. EH, TD, CAOS. Cylinder testing IDEST 2v, Regulator servicing, Air, Nitrox, Trimix, TDI Technical courses. Suit repairs.



SUSSEX

OCEAN VIEW DIVING SERVICES LTD

160 South Street,
Lancing,
West Sussex
BN15 8AU.

Tel: 01903 767224

Fax: 01903 754361

Email: info@oceanviewdiving.co.uk

Website: www.oceanviewdiving.co.uk

PADI 5★ IDC Centre, IANTD, TDI, OSS, OST, EH, BS. Air to 300 Bar, Nitrox. Padi Tec Rec. Tri-mix. Mail order, suit repairs, holidays abroad, on-site indoor pool. Licenced bar and club. Largest selection of equipment in Sussex.



YORKSHIRE

THE DIVERS WAREHOUSE

911 Wakefield Road,
Tong, Bradford,
West Yorkshire,
BD4 7QA

Tel: 01274 307 555

Email: sales@diverswarehouse.co.uk

Website: www.diverswarehouse.co.uk

Opening Hours 8:30 - 17:30 Mon - Sat, Thursday 8:30 - 20:30, Sunday Closed. Air to (BAR) 300. EH, ESI, TD, EA, FCF, AYRD, UWP, CAOS. Nitrox. PADI 5★, SSI. Servicing, Cylinder testing (IDEST approved), Equipment Hire, Large Equipped shop with changing facilities, classroom, online sales, large parking area, PADI + SSI courses. Everything Scuba!



ROBIN HOOD WATERSPORTS

152 Leeds Road,
Heckmondwike,
West Yorkshire
WF16 9BJ

Tel: 01924 444888

Fax: 01924 474529

E-mail: sally@roho.co.uk

Website: www.roho.co.uk

Opening Hours: Open Times: Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri - 9.15-6pm Thurs 9.15-8pm Sat - 9.15 - 5pm. OSS, OST, BS, IDEST, EH, Nitrox. PADI Dive Centre, BSAC Premier level. Training in our on-site heated pool and lecture rooms. Home of the renowned ROHO drysuits. Nitrox courses & fills. Gigantic 5000sq ft showroom fully stocked with dive watersports & snowboarding equipment. Friendly, helpful staff and instructors. Equipment hire.



IRELAND

CO CORK

OCEANADDICTS

Kinsale, Co. Cork, Ireland

Tel: 00353 (0)87-7903211

Email: anne@oceanaddicts.ie

Website: www.oceanaddicts.ie

Opening Hours: 9.00am to 6.00pm. Air to 300, PADI Resort, DAN, LB, ESI, ACC, AT, UWP, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox. Liveboard and day-boat diving, groups and individuals welcome, friendly atmosphere, wrecks and reefs, great photo opportunities, courses available, live the adventure on Ireland's South Coast.



CO DONEGAL

MEVAGH DIVE CENTRE LTD

Milford Road, Carrigat, Letterkenney,

Co. Donegal, Ireland

Tel: 00353 749154708

Mob: 00353 8765 90264

Email: reception@mevaghdiving.com

Website: www.mevaghdiving.com

Opening Hours: 9am to 7.30pm. Air to 300 Bar, PADI 5★ Dive Centre, EH, ESI, TD, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS, Nitrox, Tri Mix. Mevagh Dive Centre PADI 5★. All levels of diving including Technical diving. 11m catamaran with dive lift. Accommodation with Swimming pool.



NORTHERN IRELAND

COUNTY DOWN

DV DIVING

138 Mount Steward Road, Newtownards, Co. Down, BT22 2ES.

Tel: 02891 464671/861686

Fax: 02891 464671

Email: info@dvddiving.co.uk

Website: www.dvddiving.co.uk

OSS, OST, BS, EH, DV Diving offer one of Europe's most comprehensive ranges of scuba, technical & commercial diving and powerboat training courses - for the complete beginner through to instructor development for the most experienced professionals



PORTSTEWART

AQUAHOLICS DIVE CENTRE

14 Portmore Road,

Portstewart

Tel: 28 70832584

Email: dive@aquaholics.org

Website: www.aquaholics.org

Opening Hours: 9am to 5pm. Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ CENTRE. NITROX, TRIMIX. EH, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, ACC, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Offering the full range of courses from Beginner to Trimix. Diving the spectacular clear water of the North Coast from Rathlin Island to Malin Head.



LOOKING TO
ADVERTISE
YOUR DIVE
CENTRE OR
LIVEABOARD?

T. +44 (0) 118 974 2502
E. sam.wren@sportdiver.co.uk

OVERSEAS DIVE OPERATORS

AUSTRALIA

LIVEABOARD



Australia - Cairns

Spirit of Freedom

www.spiritoffreedom.com.au

Passengers.....26	Elec.....240
Cabins.....11	Courses.....Y
En-suite.....Y	AirCon.....Y
Length.....37m	Nitrox.....Y
Hull.....Steel	CCR.....N

LIVEABOARD



Australia - Cairns, Queensland

Spoilsport

www.mikeball.com

Passengers.....29	Elec.....240
Cabins.....15	Courses.....Y
En-suite.....Y	AirCon.....Y
Length.....30m	Nitrox.....Y
Hull.....Aluminium	CCR.....Y

BALI

AQUAMARINE DIVING - BALI

2A Jalan Petitenget,

Kuta,

Bali, 80361, Indonesia

Tel: +623614738020

Email: info@AquaMarineDiving.com

Website: www.AquaMarineDiving.com

Opening Hours: We are open 7 days a week and from 7am to 7pm.

Air to (BAR) 200. EH, LB, ESI, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox. 5★ Dive Resort. AquaMarine Diving - Bali is dedicated to ensuring you experience Bali's best diving, from Day Trips to fully-inclusive underwater macro-photography Safaris, Intro-diving and Snorkelling, PADI courses to Divemaster and many Specialties (including the Manta Ray Awareness Specialty).



CAYMAN ISLANDS

SUNSET HOUSE - GRAND CAYMAN'S HOTEL FOR DIVERS BY DIVERS

390 South Church Street

PO Box 479GT Grand Cayman

Cayman Islands

Tel: 1-345-949-7111

Fax: 1-345-949-7101

Email: keith.sahm@sunsethouse.com

Website: www.sunsethouse.com

Opening Hours: 7:00 - 17:30 (Dive Centre Hours). Air To 200 Bar. Stingray City and ex-USS Kittiwake Adventures. PADI 5★ IDC. EH, ESI, EA, Acc, FCF, AT (with packages), AYRD, UWP, CH, BH, NDCF, CAOS (with packages). Full-Service dive operations located at Sunset House. Recreational boat dives. Incredible shore diving. Nitrox. Cathy Church. U/W photo centre. 53 Rooms for accommodations. Bar, restaurant onsite. Stepping out of my room, catching that breath of fragrant tropical breeze, gazing into the alluring blue water...I found the essence of Sunset House.



CYPRUS

ALPHA DIVERS

2 Pyla Gardens, Dhekelia Road,

Larnaca, Pyla Tourist Area,

7081, Cyprus

Tel: +357 24647519

+357 99866383

Email: info@alpha-divers.com

Website: www.alpha-divers.com

5 star PADI Instructor Development & Tec Rec Centre, BSAC Tec Centre and Seamanship Centre offering the very highest in course from beginner to Instructor.



CYDIVE DIVE CYPRUS

20, Myrra Complex 33, Poseidonos Ave 1,

Paphos 8042, Cyprus.

Tel: 00 357 26 934271

Email: info@cydive.com

Website: www.cydive.com

PADI. The First PADI 5★ Career Development Centre & Centre of Excellence in Cyprus. CAOS, EH, CH, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, ESI, EA, BH, AYRD, UWP, OW, NDCF. Fantastic Location, an exciting programme with 2 Boat Dives & Daytrips Daily. Instructor programmes 4 times a year.



LARNACA DIVE-IN

HTTC Ltd (Hyperbaric Therapy Treatment Ctr)

Poseidonia Medical Centre

47a Eleftherias Avenue,

Aradippou, Larnaca,

CYPRUS 7102

Tel: 00357 24 252501/24 hr

Emergency Diver Help Line 99 518837

Fax: 00357 24 252502

Email: info@hbocyprus.com

Website: www.hbocyprus.com

Opening Hours: 9:5 Mon-Sat.

24/7 Emergency Diver Response. Air to 232 Bar. If you are concerned or feel that you have unusual signs or symptoms after a dive please always get it checked. We have a 24/7, 365 days service with a full Hyperbaric Medical team on standby at our 14 man fully computerized, HAUX 2200 Starmed Unit. We are the Preferred Provider for IDAN, UK Armed Forces, US Armed Forces, NATO and many more. We offer Direct Insurance billing for all treatments. Also Dry Dives to 40 metres, PADI Chamber Specialty Courses, DAN In-Chamber Tender Courses, DAN Chamber Operator Courses, DAN Consumer and Instructor Courses to all Levels.



EGYPT

LIVEABOARD



Egypt, Sharm El Sheikh

Vip One

www.vipone.com

Passengers.....16	Elec.....220
Cabins.....8	Courses.....Y
En-suite.....Y	AirCon.....Y
Length.....29m	Nitrox.....Y
Hull.....Wood	CCR.....N

LIVEABOARD



Egypt

South Moon

www.seaqueen.com

Passengers.....20	Elec.....240/110
Cabins.....10	Courses.....Y
En-suite.....Y	AirCon.....Y
Length.....27m	Nitrox.....Y
Hull.....Wood	CCR.....N



CAMEL DIVE CLUB & HOTEL

Centre of Na'ama Bay,

PO Box 10,

Sharm El Sheikh,

South Sinai,

Egypt.

Tel: +20 69 3600 700

Fax: +20 69 3600 601

Email: info@cameldive.com

Website: www.cameldive.com

PADI 5★ Gold Palm IDC Centre, BSAC, Acc. AT, LB, ESI, EA, BH, AYRD, UWP, OW, NDCF, TD, CAOS, EH, FCF. The Red Seas friendliest diver hotel and dive centre. Join us for spectacular diving and the best apres dive in Sharm. Established 1986



EAGLE DIVERS

Ocean Club Hotel,

23 City Council Street,

Hadaba,

Sharm el Sheikh

Tel: 002 01200001590

002 01200001591

Email: info@eagle-divers.com

Website: www.eagle-divers.com

Opening Hours: 8:00am - 6:00pm

PADI 5★ resort & TecRec Centre.

Nitrox. Air to 220 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Providing first class personalised service in one of the worlds top diving destinations.

We pride ourselves on making your Red Sea holiday the best it can be.



OVERSEAS DIVE OPERATORS

EMPEROR DIVERS

15 New Kawthar, Airport Road, Hurghada, Egypt
Tel: (+20) 122 234 0995
Email: info@emperordivers.com
Web: www.emperordivers.com
Opening Hours: See website.
 EH, LB, ESI, TD, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF.
 Nitrox, PADI 5★ Year-round diving: the Maldives and Red Sea: El Gouna, Marsa Alam, Hamata and Sharm El Sheikh and Emperor liveaboards. Day diving, dive courses, resort packages.



ELITE DIVING'S DIVERS UNITED

Uni Sharm Hotel, Sharm Elysees St, Um El Sid Hill, Hadaba, Sharm El Sheikh
Tel: 0020 1224 308 780
Email: info@elite-diving.com
Web: www.elite-diving.com
Opening Hours: 8:00am to 19:00pm
 Air to 220 Bar. Divers United PADI 5 Resort. Elite Diving. BSAC Diver Training Center. EH, LB, ESI, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. NITROX, ATOL Bonded through UK Tour operator. British Owner managers, offering Daily Boat Diving on some of the best reefs in the world, House reef, PADI & BSAC courses, Liveaboards, Special excursions.



ILIOS DIVE CLUB

Steigenberger Al Dau Resort, Hurghada, Red Sea, Egypt
Tel: 0020 65 346 5442
Email: info@iliosdiveclub.com
Website: www.iliosdiveclub.com
Opening Hours: 8am - 5pm
 Air to 200 Bar. Nitrox, Padi Course up to Divemaster, Handicapped diving, Snorkeling. EH, ESI, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Ilios Dive Club - One with the Red Sea.
 The Steigenberger Al Dau Resort, Red Sea, Hurghada is the home of Ilios Dive Club. On an area of 360m² we are offering everything diver, skin diver and those going to be need to have a perfect holiday. Due to over 20 years of experience in the professional management of a dive centre we guarantee our guests wonderful dives in the Red Sea.



OCEAN COLLEGE

Naama Bay Hotel, Naama Bay, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
Tel: 0020 1228075516
Email: info@ocean-college.com
Website: www.ocean-college.com
Opening Hours: 0800 - 1700.
 Air to 300 Bar. PADI 5★ IDC, Nitrox, ATOL Bonded. EH, ESI, EA, AIP, FCF, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Ocean College dive centre's are located at the Naama bay hotel, the Hilton Waterfalls and the Sensori resort.



RED SEA DIVING COLLEGE

Sultana Building, Naama Bay, South Sinai, Egypt
Tel: 0020 69 3600145
Email: info@redseacollege.com
Website: www.redseacollege.com
Opening hours: 8am - 9pm.
 Air to 200 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, ACC, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox, National Geographic. PADI 5★ CDC. Multi Award winning centre offering all courses from entry level to professional. Conducted from a stunning beach-front location, boasting the best facilities in Sharm.



SHARKS BAY UMBI DIVING CENTRE

P O Box 275, Sharks Bay, Sharm el Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt
Tel: +20 122 714 2029
 +20 69 3600942
Email: info@sharksbay.com
Website: www.sharksbay.com
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm Mon - Sun. Air to 200 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, TD, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, BH, NDCF, CAOS. Nitrox, PADI 5★ and SSI Dive Centre. Sharks Bay Umbi Diving Village combines Bedouin style, warm hospitality and modern facilities. You really will come as a guest but leave as a friend.



SINAI COLLEGE - DIVING CENTER

Sharm Inn Amarin, Hadaba, Sharm El Sheikh South Sinai 60907, Egypt
Tel: +201154055100
Email: info@sina-college.com
Website: www.sina-college.com
Opening hours: 7.30am till 7pm every day of the year. Air to 200 Bar. EH, LB, ESI, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, COAS. Nitrox, PADI Dive Centre. We are an European run and managed dive center based in Sharm El Sheikh with a friendly and professional atmosphere. We provide daily diving, mini safaris and liveaboards.



FUERTEVENTURA

DEEP BLUE DIVING S.L

Barcelo el Castillo, Caleta de Fuste, Fuerteventura, 35610
Tel: +34 606 275 468 or +34 928 163 172
Email: info@deep-blue-diving.com
Website: www.deep-blue-diving.com
Facebook: Deep.Blue.Diving.Fuerteventura
Opening Hours: All year 9am-5pm
 Air to 200. PADI 5★ GOLD PALM IDC CENTRE & IE LOCATION. EH, ESI, AIP, ACC, FCF, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. WIFI, Equipment Washing and Storage Rooms. Discover Scuba to Instructor. All year round, water front location, small groups, 20-25m visibility. Exclusive dive sites, after dive sector.



GRAN CANARIAS

BLUE WATER DIVING

Holiday Club Puerto Calma, Avenida Joaquin Blanco Torrent 2, City: Puerto Rico, Mogan State, Las Palmas, 35130, Spain
Tel: +34602080208
 +34633963248
Email: info@divinggrancanaria.com
Website: www.divinggrancanaria.com
Opening Hours: 9am until 6pm Monday - Sunday. Air to 200 bar. EH, ESI, Acc, AYRD, NDCF, CAOS. PADI 5★ Dive Centre. All year round diving, boat and shore dives. Ideal for all level of divers. Special offers for groups, families and dive packages. Divemaster internships available.



GREECE

CRETE UNDERWATER CENTER

Mirabello Beach Hotel, Agios Nikolaos 72100 Crete, Greece. PO Box 100
Tel/Fax: 00 30 284 1022 406
Mobile: 0030 6945 2444 34 / 0030 6944 1268 46
Email: info@creteunderwatercenter.com
Website: www.creteunderwatercenter.com
 PADI Resort D.C., Day Boats/ Servicing/ Accommodation/ Technical/ IANTD/ PADI/BSAC Resort Center/Air /Nitrox/ Trimix/ KitionSale. Based within a hotel complex directly on the beach, we provide a great variety of diving services for Beginners through to Advanced and Technical Divers. As a well equipped resort and diving centre, we tailor packages to suit your individual or group needs.



NERO-SPORT DIVING CENTER

Limni Keri, Machairado, Zakynthos 29092 Greece
Tel: 0030 269 502 8481
 0030 698 566 6645
Email: dennis@nero-sport.de
Website: www.nero-sport.de
Opening Hours: All Year, Everyday 9:30 - 18:00 (Except 15.11. - 15.12.)
 Air to 200 Bar. PADI DIVE CENTRE, IAC 5★ EH, ESI, Acc, AT, FCF, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Free childcare. 2-5 trips a day. Day trips. Night diving. Own accommodation. Snack bar. Great family offers. Special group offers. Diving all year round.



GALAPAGOS

LIVEABOARD

San Cristobal, Galapagos
M/V Galapagos Sky
www.galapagossky.com

Passengers.....16	Elec.....110/220
Cabins.....8	Courses.....Y
En-suite.....Y	AirCon.....Y
Length.....30m	Nitrox.....Y
Hull.....Steel	CCR.....N

HONDURAS

LIVEABOARD

Utila, Bay Islands of Honduras
M/V Caribbean Pearl II
www.bayislandsyachtcharters.com

Passengers.....18	Elec.....220
Cabins.....9	Courses.....Y
En-suite.....Y	AirCon.....Y
Length.....36m	Nitrox.....Y
Hull.....Aluminium	CCR.....N

UTILA DIVE CENTRE/MANGO INN

Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras
Tel/Fax: (504) 24253327
Email: info@utiladivecentre.com
Website: www.utiladivecentre.com
 www.goproutila.com
Opening Hours: 7am to 7pm
 Air to 220 Bar. PADI Career Development Centre and IANTD facility. Nitrox, Trimix, Rebreather friendly, National Geographic Facility. EH, ESI, TD, EA, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, CAOS. PADI certification courses from beginner to Instructor (monthly PADI IDC's) with diving packages and accommodation. The island of Utila offers spectacular Caribbean diving and Whale sharks.



INDONESIA

BIG BUBBLE DIVE

Turtle Beach, Gili Trawangan, Lombok NTB, Indonesia 83233.
Tel: +623706125020
 +62811390969
Email: info@bigbubblediving.com
Website: www.bigbubblediving.com
Open: 8am to 7pm daily all year round
 Established in 2001 by UK Owner Anna Walker, The crystal clear waters (up to 40m visibility) will ensure you see the very best of the aquatic life that diving in Indonesia has to offer.



BLUE MARLIN DIVE

Gili Trawangan, Gili Meno, Gili Air, Senggigi, Lombok, Indonesia.
Tel: ++62 (0) 370 632424
Fax: ++62 (0) 370 642286
Email: info@bluemarlinedive.com
Website: www.bluemarlinedive.com
 PADI 5★ Premier IDC Centre. Acc., AT, LB, ESI, EA, BH, AYRD, UWP, OW, NDCF, TD, EH, CH, AIP, CAOS, FCF. The Gili Islands most professional & friendly 5★ IDC Centre (established 16 years). Spectacular world class ocean diving. Ocean front restaurant, bar, night club & freshwater pool. Full retail dive shop on site. DM internship programmes. Full technical diving facility offering TDI & IANTD. Blue Marlin has it's own luxury liveaboard offering trips throughout the Indonesian Archipelago. Packages available.



TWO FISH DIVERS

One operator/three tropical-island resorts: Bunaken Island, North Sualwesi Lembeh Straits, North Sualwesi Lembongan Island, Bali
Tel: 0062-811-432-805
Email: info@twofishdivers.com
Website: www.twofishdivers.com
 Air to 200 bar. PADI 5★ IDC. Nitrox, EH, ESI, TD, EA, AIP, Acc, FCF, AT, AYRD, UWP, NDCF, CAOS. Two Fish Divers is owned and run by Tina and Nigel from UK. Each of their three tropical-island resorts offer a friendly and relaxed atmosphere with some of the best diving in Indonesia:
 1) Bunaken Island, North Sulawesi - the award-winning reefs of Bunaken Marine Park.
 2) Lembeh Straits, North Sulawesi - the muck-diving capital of the world.
 3) Lembongan Island, Bali - home of the mola-mola's and manta's of Bali.
 All dive resorts are PADI 5★, have european management, max 24 divers, small dive groups, and a friendly and personal service. Organise a trip to one of more of these resorts, or book an Indo Dive Safari with all three resorts!



LANZAROTE

MANTA DIVING LANZAROTE

Juan Carlos 1, No.6, Local 5, Puerto del Carmen
Tel: (0034) 928 516815
Mobile: (0034) 649 121142
Email: info@manta-diving-lanzarote.com
 manta-diving-lanzarote-val@hotmail.com
Skype: manta-dive-centre
Website: www.manta-diving-lanzarote.com
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8.30-5.30pm all year round. Air to 200 Bar. PADI IRRA RESORT CENTRE, BSAC RESORT CENTRE. OSS, ACC, AT, AYRD, BH, CAOS, CH, NDCF, EA, EH, UWP, ESI, FCF, PADI. Courses & Specialties, Discover Scuba & Snorkelling. Fully equipped, spacious centre, 150mtrs from best sites in Lanzarote. Group Rates All level of divers welcome. NITROX.



SAFARI DIVING LANZAROTE

Playa de la Barrilla 4, Playa Chica Puerto Del Carmen,
Tel: 0034 928511992 or 0034 646752512
Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com
Website: www.safaridiving.com
 PADI, PADI 5★ Centre, BSAC, PADI Premier Centre, NAUI, SAA, Acc, AT, LB, ESI, EAS, BH, AYRD, UWP, OWs, NDCF, ATOL, TD, CAOS, EH, CH, AIP, FCF, SSI & RYA. We are a PADI dive centre. BSAC Premier Centre and Seamanship Centre. SSI Diver Training Centre. British owned, beach based diving centre, established for over 18 years. Spectacular Ocean diving all year round which include reefs, drop offs, wrecks etc to suit all levels of diver and the complete beginner! Special offers available for dive packages for shore, night and boat dives.



CLASSIFIEDS

ACCESSORIES

DIVING LOG BOOKS
Order Online Over 20 variations
All styles

Enjoy PADI
Becoming a Commercial
BSAC

Hard Back
Binders
A5 & A6 sizes
Loose Leaf Packs

Call Us: 0800 542 8181
PUFFIN www.puffinshop.co.uk

dive-logs.com

Log Books Binders & Accessories Log Refill Packs

Don't Play With The Shark

LINDA BSAC ScubaTags

Log Book Stamps

LASER QUALITY

Fish ID Cards

WWW.DIVE-LOGS.COM

Diver's Ink
Logbook Stamps



www.divers-ink.co.uk

www.sportdiver.co.uk

EQUIPMENT

REGULATOR SERVICE

To Ensure 100% Working Condition
Regulators Should be Serviced Annually
For Fast, Reliable Turn-Round Times
& Quality Controlled Services

Call us on 0800 542 8181
Completion within 5 days



ALL Major Brands Serviced
Certified Technicians

PUFFIN www.puffin.org.uk

Otter Drysuits For all
your drysuit needs
we stock more than 350 suits
in our large showroom

We Repair All Types Of
Drysuits trade Repairs Taken

OTTER WATER SPORTS
www.drysuits.co.uk
Email sales@drysuits.co.uk
Phone 01274 379480

roho
dive

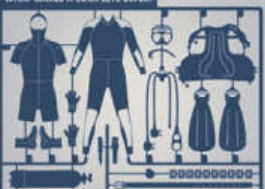


- Servicing on Site
- Wet/Dry Suits
- Regulators
- BCDs
- Cylinders (IDEST)
- Computers
- Watches
- Mail order

01924 444888 dive@roho.co.uk
www.roho.co.uk

INSURANCE

WHAT MAKES A COMPLETE DIVER?



DIVE MASTER INSURANCE
Simple, Secure and Affordable
BUY ONLINE
www.divemasterinsurance.com
CALL 01702 476902

20%
Online Discount

HOLIDAYS OVERSEAS

SAFARI DIVING

- English owned legal dive centre in Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote, located directly on a family-friendly beach.
- We can offer you the most dive sites with daily boat, shore and night dives – all some price!
- Suitable for beginner and all levels of divers – train your own students or complete courses with us.
- We will not be beaten on legitimate quoted prices.
- We can assist with flights/accommodation, etc.
- Others promise – we deliver!

**COME AND SEE US THE NEC DIVE SHOW
24TH AND 25TH OCTOBER STAND 1110**



Safari Diving Lanzarote
Phone: (0034) 928 51 19 92
Mobiles: (0034) 625 059 713
Email: enquiry@safaridiving.com
Web: www.safaridiving.com

MEDICAL

Diving Medicals Nottingham

- Sport Diver medicals £50
- HSE commercial diving medicals £110
- Oil and Gas UK Offshore Medicals £100
- HGV/PSV/taxi medicals £50
- Occupational Health Medicals

Discounts for students and large groups
For appointments call 0780 2850 084
email: mclamp@doctors.org.uk

DR Des McCann
HSE and Sport Diver Medicals
Majority done within 72 hrs. Can usually manage same day.
Dr Des McCann : Poole Dorset
Mob 07970 627811 Land line 01202 708638
desmondmccann@hotmail.com

Diving Medicals in the Midlands HSE / Sport / Advice – Email: doctor@midlandsdivingchamber.co.uk / Tel: 01788 579555

REPAIRS

Equipment Repairs
Drysuits, Watches, Computers & More
Fast, Reliable Quality Controlled Guaranteed Work
Drysuit Boots, Zips, Cuffs, Necks & Pressure Tests. In House Repairs

ALL Major Brands of Equipment



Fast Service 3-5 day turn round Average
Overnight & Faster Service Available
Phone us for a quote
web - www.puffin.org.uk
email - info@puffin.org.uk
Phone - 0800 542 8181

PUFFIN

WET & DRY SUIT REPAIRS
ALL MAKES ALL TYPES
0161 304 8471

9 Waterloo Court, Waterloo Road,
Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 2AU
www.gybe.co.uk
e-mail: repairs@gybe.co.uk
Tel 0161 304 8471

Gybe

To advertise call
Sam on
0118 974 2502

Order the next
issue today

30+
magazines

Direct
to your
door

FREE UK
delivery

buyamag.co.uk

WEBSITES

www.lumb-bros-das.co.uk
Quality diving products.

www.otterboxes.co.uk
Rugged waterproof cases for every environment.

www.unidive.co.uk
A quality range of masks, snorkels, fins and knives.

www.tek-tite.co.uk
Torches, strobes, marker lights for diving and outdoor pursuits.




WESTFIELD
SUB AQUA & MARINE INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

www.divinginsuranceuk.com

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Specialist Sport Diver
Insurance

NORTH

FARNE ISLANDS DIVING

William Shiel

Farne Islands Diving available all year round in our hard boats and Rhib for both groups and individuals. Air Station with air fill collection service (no queuing for air fills).

Tel: 01665 721297 / Mob: 07799 666573

Email: diver@farne-islands.com

www.farne-islands.co.uk | www.farneislandsdiving.co.uk

Quote: "SPORTS DIVER" for offer

Order the
next issue
today
buy mag.co.uk

SCOTLAND

URCHIN DIVE CHARTER

OBAN & SOUND OF MULL

Hard Boat Diving

BOOK NOW: 0800 5428181



Warm Saloon
Wet & Dry Storage
Moon Pool Entry
20 years Diving Knowledge
On board Galley
Hot Tea & Snacks

www.puffin.org.uk

Diver Friendly
Catamaran



SCAPA FLOW

FEW PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 2015.
TAKING BOOKINGS FOR 2016 AND BEYOND

For a great diving package from our 20m hard day boat, O2 clean 15lt tanks, air to 300 bar, minibuses, complimentary airport & Stromness ferry pickups. Self-contained accommodation with hot breakfast in central Stromness, all inclusive plus onboard nitrox. All sizes of parties catered for.

Email: leigh@divescapaflo.co.uk

Tel: 01856 850 055 | www.divescapaflo.co.uk

www.mvhalton.co.uk Scapa Flow
Oban
Shetland
Norway

01856 851532
bob@mvhalton.co.uk
Halton Charters

M.V GAEILIC ROSE OBAN



Liveaboard diving holidays around the West Coast of Scotland.
Weekend, full week and mid week bookings available.
Accommodation, meals and airfills included in the price.

Nitrox available. Diver lift on board.

For more information please contact
Nicki 01967 421714 or Bob 07778965618
Website: www.gaelicrose.com, Email: info@gaelicrose.com

DIVE SCAPA FLOW

& ORKNEY

ABOARD THE FOR LIVE ABOARD M.V. SUNRISE

The M.V. Sunrise is a 70ft live-aboard dive boat, providing high quality diving holidays in Scapa Flow. There is a hydraulic diver lift, making it easy to get back on board. Nitrox is available on board; we can provide any mix you require. Contact us today for availability and to book your holiday with us

Tel: 01856 874425
www.sunrisecharters.co.uk
email: dougie@sunrisecharters.co.uk

Subscribe today



subscriptionsave.co.uk

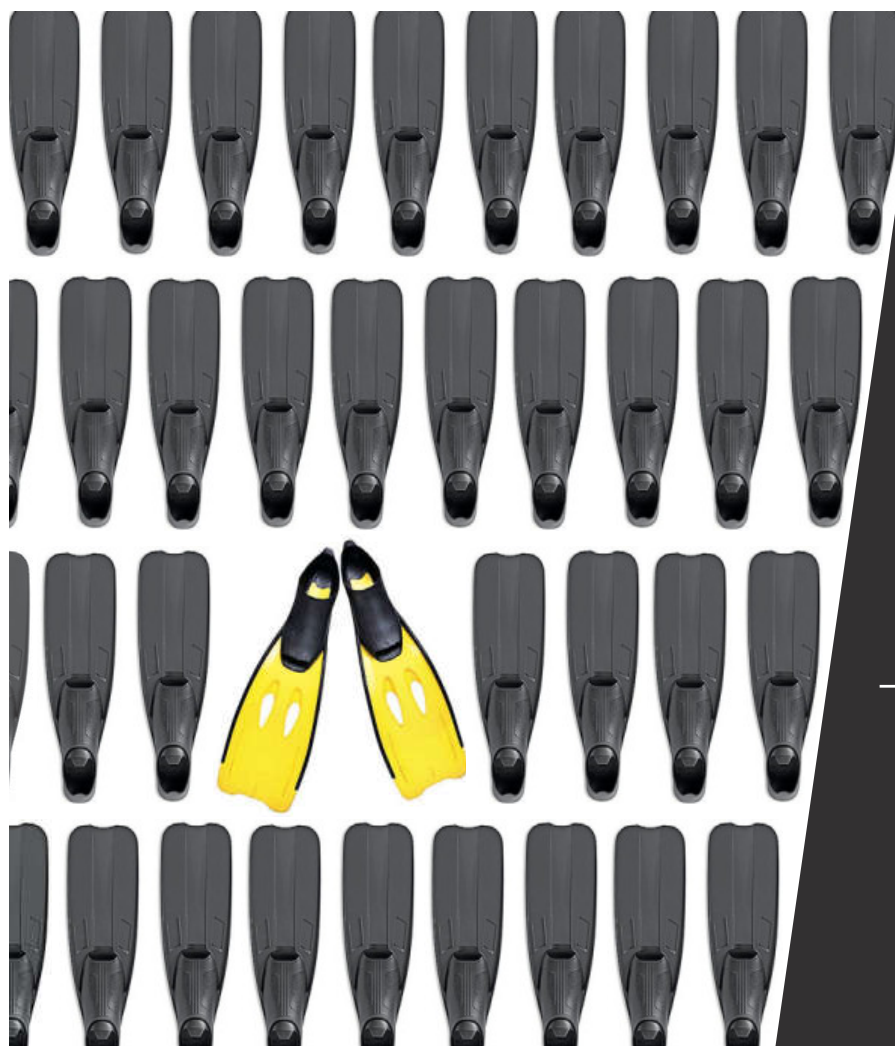
Magazines | Newspapers | Products

30+
magazines

GIFT
ideas

FREE UK
delivery

SCOTLAND



STAND OUT
FROM THE
CROWD

Get your
business noticed
in Sport Diver

To advertise
call Sam Wren
0118 974 2502

SportDiver

©PADI THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PADI DIVING SOCIETY

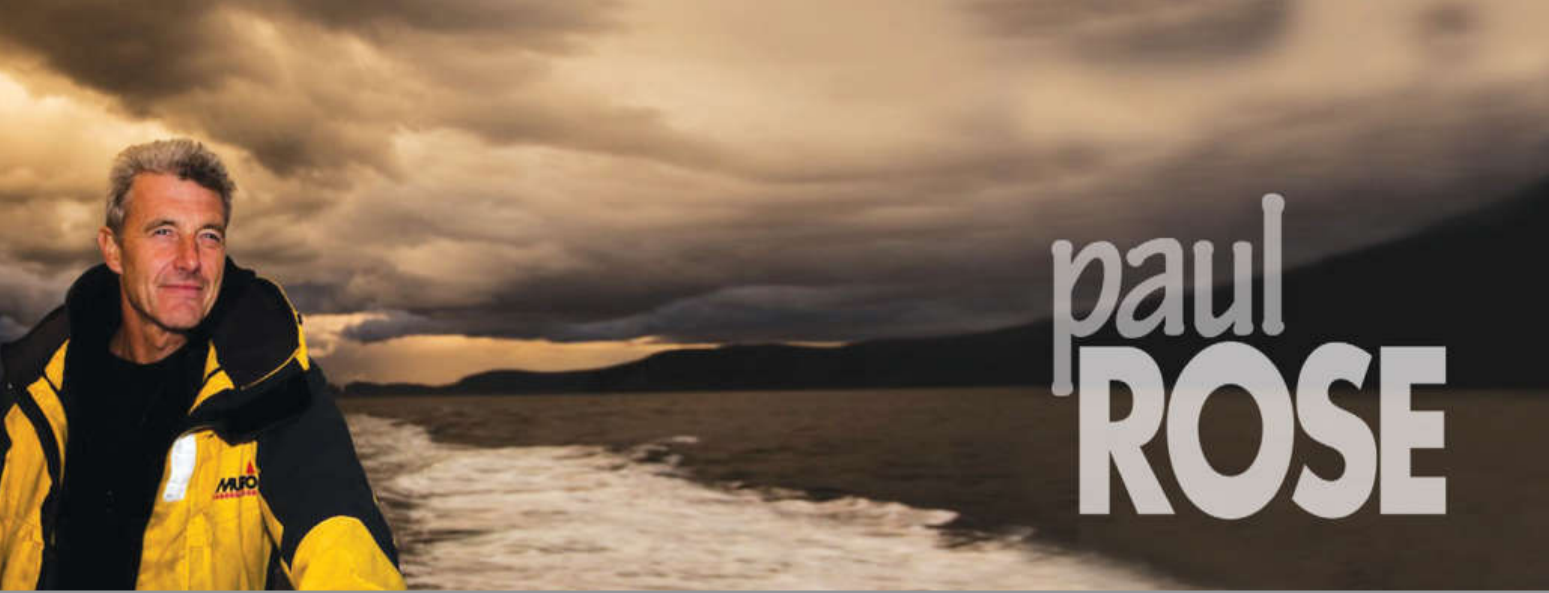
- Travel Insurance
- Equipment Insurance
- Boat Insurance
- Personal Accident Insurance

Phone 'your insurance buddy' on

01483 237827

The Sub Aqua Association choose
us for our Insurance expertise!





paul ROSE

As a youth I always fancied a proper shark attack scar. I reckoned that as I peeled off my shirt and walked the beach the girls would obviously find me irresistible as they swooned at the huge purple zigzag running from neck to nether regions. I bought a shark attack T-shirt once but it had no effect. Only the real thing would do.

Forty something years later and I still haven't been bitten by a shark or any large predators, but a couple of weeks ago in the Arctic I came too bloody close.

I had spent days setting up camp on an exposed rocky beach at the northern tip of Baffin Island in Nunavut. We had good weather to fly our gear in, but big winds slowed us down, blew some tents away, made life hard and meant that we worked through most of the 24-hour daylight and only took short naps for rest. Eventually our charter plane brought in the rest of my team who had been waiting at Pond Inlet, along with much needed food and fuel. We had a huge dinner, celebrated being together, made plans and laughed and hooted at the

just stared at each other. I was afraid to blink. I had the flare gun aimed but was worried that if I fired it would make the bear jump at me. It looked relaxed and in those huge brown eyes I saw only curiosity - or was it pity?

After about a minute of this cross-species staring match it moved slowly up the beach and once it was about 20 feet away I started to dress. The sound of me dressing brought it running back and I figured it was going for an attack. But instead it walked around my tent a few times, lay on the rocky beach watching me and then walked onto the sea ice and disappeared, perfectly camouflaged amongst the frozen bergs. My heart rate zoomed back up to near maximum, my tent was wrecked and I had a sore shoulder, but boy was I happy!

By checking out the footprints and tent rips Theo and Jake, our Inuit elders, worked out that my bear was a seven to eight hundred pound female who had jumped on my tent in the same way that they jump onto snow mounds hoping they might find a seal. She could obviously sense me and by the slimmest of margins she had missed hooking me

"By checking out the footprints and tent rips, Theo and Jake, our Inuit elders, worked out that my bear was a seven to eight hundred pound female who had jumped on my tent in the same way that they jump on to snow mounds hoping they might find a seal."

joy of being in such a remote, beautiful place. I was incredibly happy as I warmed up in my sleeping bag - a good job done, the team, aircraft, helicopter and all the gear was in camp. I went out like a light.

OOOF! The air blew out of my lungs as an immense weight suddenly landed on my head, neck and left shoulder. In that instant I knew it was a polar bear. I rolled out of my sleeping bag with my heart rate at maximum. I had never previously gone from resting to maximum in a fraction of a second - believe me it's quite a test of the ticker. My watch said 0200, the tent was partially collapsed, broken tent poles poking through the flysheet, there was no wind and the only sound was light snow gently settling on the remains of my tent.

I grabbed the flare gun and concentrated on slowing my pulse and listening for the bear. I couldn't believe that I hadn't heard it approach. After a minute I had my heart rate under control, found the flare gun and moved as silently as I could to the tent door. It took a long time to slowly unzip the inner tent door and then the flysheet as I was determined to not make any sounds. Once it was open about a foot I poked my head out and came face to face with one of the largest carnivorous predators on the planet. Our heads were about two feet apart and we

with those claws.

On the strength of my encounter we improved our bear watch routines and also brought in a fabulous, mostly wild, husky from Pond Inlet who theoretically would raise hell when a bear got close. We became great mates - I loved him for being a smelly, strong, beautiful dog; he loved me because I knew where the food was. But he showed his true affection for me on our last dive when he was so excited on our way across the sea ice that he couldn't stop biting my legs, making holes in my new drysuit. During the dive he snapped at my bubbles as they appeared in the ice cracks and when I surfaced he gave me a huge bite on the head. My suit goes back to O'Three for repairs next month and instead of the bird-pulling zigzag scars or life-ending polar bear injuries I have a hole in my head and some antibiotics.

Paul is the Vice President of the Royal Geographical Society.

For 10 years he was the Base Commander of Rothera Research Station in Antarctica and was also the BAS Diving Officer.

He presents television and radio programmes for the BBC.

www.paulrose.org

CONQUER NEW TERRITORY



SUUNTO EON STEEL EXPLORE MORE - FULL CUSTOMIZATION

Suunto introduces its next generation dive computer. The intuitive Suunto EON Steel combines advanced technology with customizable features and display to show clearly what you need. With heavy duty housing, a stainless steel bezel, and user updatable software, Suunto EON Steel will dive with you for years to come.

www.suunto.com


SUUNTO



For more information call 01420 587272
Discover Moves at www.movescount.com
Follow us on  @SuuntoDivingUK and  at www.facebook.com/SuuntoDivingUK

SCUBAPRO



BUILT FOR ANYWHERE THE
ADVENTURE TAKES YOU.

The undisputed leader in regulators now gives you the freedom to go further than ever before. SCUBAPRO's air-balanced piston MK25 EVO is like no other, and now includes the exclusive Extended Thermal Insulating System [XTIS], which shields the inner components for 30 percent better performance in cold water. Teamed up with an exceptional second stage, only SCUBAPRO regulators can take you everywhere you want to go. Exceeds the new european test norm EN250-2014 standard.

SCUBAPRO.COM

new

MK25 EVO FIRST STAGE



Available in A700, S600
and G260 combinations